Sunday, February 8, 2026 No 39 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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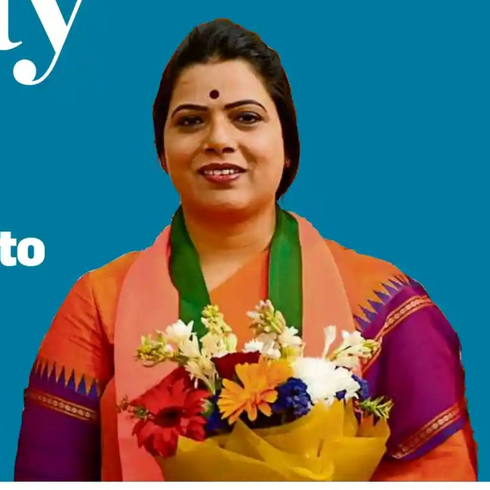
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

BJP's Ritu Tawde set to be Mumbai mayor

She will be party's first woman to occupy the post

P6



IS claims responsibility for Pak blast; toll rises to 36

P8

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WHAT MAY HURT INDIA

- Tariff cuts on US fruits and soybean oil are likely to hurt Indian farmers and trigger domestic opposition
- India's concessions on automobiles, electronics, smartphones, and solar panels risk weakening domestic manufacturing
- The US has not reduced MFN tariffs, offering only partial relief from reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports

> India intends to purchase $500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next 5 years
>
> JOINT STATEMENT

India, US reach trade deal; farmers safe: Goyal

Likely to be formally signed in coming weeks; Indian trade experts cautious

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and the United States on Saturday released a joint statement for the interim trade deal, which is expected to be formally signed in the coming weeks.

Under the deal, both sides have agreed to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers to boost trade. US President Donald Trump also signed an executive order to revoke 25% penal tariff, which was imposed for India's purchase of Russian oil. This 'penal tariff' is removed with effect from 12:01 am Eastern Time on Saturday.

The Trump administration has also agreed to cut the "reciprocal" levies on a majority of Indian products from 25% to 18%.

Indian goods which will attract a lower 18% tariff in the US market include textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, plastics, rubber, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal products and certain machinery.

The US has also agreed to provide a preferential tariff-rate quota for Indian auto parts and remove the tariffs on Indian aircraft and aircraft parts related to steel, aluminium, and copper.

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," reads the joint statement.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the deal will not hurt the interests of Indian farmers, MSMEs and artisans.

"Products made by our farmers, including spices, tea, coffee, coconut, cashew, mango, banana, guava, pineapple, and processed items like jams and juices, will now face zero reciprocal tariff in the United States," Goyal told reporters.

"Sensitive commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, millets, and pulses remain fully protected," he added.

The joint statement noted that "India intends to purchase $500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next 5 years". "India and the US will significantly increase trade in technology products, including GPUs and other goods used in data centres, and expand joint technology cooperation."

▸ Trade deal, Page 5

Gains for INDIA

- **25% to 18%** Trump's reciprocal tariff reduced
- **25%** penal tariff imposed on India for Russian oil purchase revoked
- Tariffs on Indian aircraft and aircraft parts related to steel, aluminium, and copper to be removed
- India to get preferential tariff-rate quota for auto parts
- Pharmaceutical tariffs will be reviewed

Gains for US

- Elimination or reduction on tariffs on all American industrial goods
- India's pledge to buy $500 billion worth of American goods in 5 years
- Provide preferential market access in agreed sectors to facilitate smoother trade
- Lower duties on a wide range of US farm and food products

> Products made by our farmers, including spices, tea, coffee, coconut, cashew, mango, banana, guava, pineapple, and processed items like jams and juices, will now face zero reciprocal tariff in the US. Sensitive commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, millets, and pulses remain fully protected.
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL,** Commerce Minister

Trump links tariff rollback to Russian oil

India has taken significant steps to align itself closely with the US on national security, foreign policy and economic issues, President Donald Trump has said, even as he put in writing what he has been claiming — that the Modi government had committed to stop importing oil from Russia. While the US president has revoked the 25% penal tariff on India for Russian oil purchases, he warned that the tariff could be reimposed if India were to restart imports of Russian oil.

Details on Page 6

Agri: Farmers worried despite govt's claim

While the deal has kept sensitive sectors such as dairy, rice, wheat, meat, cereals, soya and maize outside its ambit, farmers' groups are worried. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha said, "Maize will be sold as dried distilled grain and DDB, along with sorghum, as animal feed. US companies will monopolise control of animal feed market".

Details on Page 6

Over 250 illegal loan apps purged in 3 years

New ones pop up, continue to harass people, say cops

DH EXCLUSIVE

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

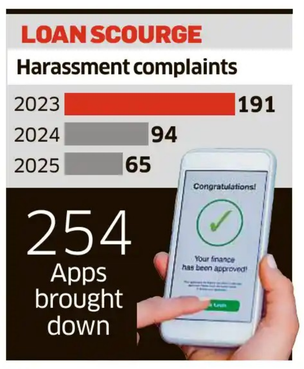
Since 2023, the state police have identified as many as 254 illegal, unregistered loan apps. Though a majority of these apps have been brought down, new apps continue to pop up. According to data accessed by *DH*, 17 people have died by suicide since 2023 due to harassment by people running such apps and as many as 350 complaints of harassment have been filed with the police in three years.

While the majority of the apps were identified based on complaints by victims, the police also keep a close watch on advertisements posted on social media and take action against any fraudulent apps.

"Most people fall for such illegal apps after seeing advertisements on social media. Hence, our teams look out for such advertisements and act immediately," M A Saleem, director general and inspector general of police, told *DH*.

Many apps use fake photos and videos of well-known personalities to defraud people into using such apps.

"To convince people that these apps are credible, they tend to use photos or fake videos of people promoting the apps. People should check if they are registered and then proceed," said Bengaluru city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.



However, the police also have challenges in tracking and bringing down these apps.

"If the apps are on Google Playstore or Apple Store, we can bring them down by writing to these platforms. However, apps hosted on other servers are difficult to track," a senior police officer said.

The police track the origin of apk files and gather clues from the money trail and emails to reach the culprits.

Most of these apps demand complete access to the applicant's phone data and use these as leverage to harass them. In many cases, morphed or private photos of the victim have been circulated and the contact details have been misused to blackmail the applicants to shell out more money.

"They contact family and friends and blackmail the victims, threatening to send private photos or videos to their close circles," officials said.

Man Utd owners bid Rs 16k cr to buy RCB: Reports

BENGALURU, DHNS: Adar Poonawalla may have set the ball rolling, but India's vaccine czar may have met more than his match in his bid to acquire the ownership of Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

According to several reports from UK-based publications, Manchester United co-owners, the Glazers, have reportedly quoted $1.8 billion (approximately Rs 16,300 crore) to buy the Bengaluru-based franchise.

Only on Thursday, Smriti Mandhana-led RCB won their second WPL title, beating Delhi Capitals, making it the first franchise to hold both the Indian Premier League and the Women's Premier League titles simultaneously. In a validation of the team's value, Glazers appeared to have made a serious bid to own an IPL team.

▸ RCB, Page 9

BJP leaders claim Centre has put Metro fare hike on hold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tejasvi Surya

BJP leaders on Saturday claimed that the Centre had withheld the 5% hike in Namma Metro fares, slated to come into effect from Monday. But sources in the know noted that no official communication had been received from the Centre and cautioned that withholding the hike was "fraught with risks".

Starting Monday, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd will raise fares by Rs 1-5 across all 10 fare zones, under annual automatic revision recommended by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC). The minimum fare will be Rs 11 and the maximum Rs 95.

The hike will come exactly a year after the fares were increased by an average of 51.55% before discounts and 46.39% after discounts. It has received criticism from passengers, mobility experts and the Opposition.

Writing on X, Bangalore South MP, L S Tejasvi Surya, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R Ashoka, stated that following their detailed phone conversations, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar had instructed the proposed hike to be kept on hold temporarily.

"It (the hike) will not take effect from Monday," Surya said and added that the Centre had also assured a personal review of anomalies in the FFC report and reconstituting a fresh committee if the state government requested it.

He urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to formally initiate the process for a new FFC and facilitate early rationalisation of fares.

In a separate X post, Ashoka said Khattar had assured him to personally review the shortcomings and anomalies in the FFC's recommendations and constitute a new FFC to carry out a scientific and rational revision of fares if the state submits a formal request.

▸ Metro fare, Page 5

> You can hold me responsible if I had signed any file relating to the hike. No file on the hike came to me.
>
> **DK SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

TODAY'S MATCHES

Af'stan	vs N Zealand	@11am
England	vs Nepal	@3pm
Sri Lanka	vs Ireland	@7pm

PCB to consult govt on Lanka's request to reconsider boycott

KARACHI, PTI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is expected to again consult its government to decide on the Sri Lankan counterpart's request to reconsider the boycott of the match against India in the T20 World Cup on February 15 in Colombo.

The Pakistan government has allowed the PCB to send the national team to the T20 World Cup but stopped it from playing against India, which is commercially the biggest match for the ICC and its broadcasters.

This has led to Sri Lanka Cricket sending an email to its Pakistan counterpart, saying not having the February 15 marquee match between the arch-rivals will cause financial losses to the SLC and also hurt the organisation and image of the tournament in the island country which is jointly hosting the world cup showpiece with India.

Pakistan is playing all its games in Colombo and Pallekele, starting on Saturday.

"Obviously Pakistan has always enjoyed very close and friendly ties with Sri Lanka at the government to government and cricket level. So the mail from their Board can't be ignored just like that," a source aware of the developments said on Saturday.

"Mohsin Naqvi has been contacted directly by the Sri Lankan Board President Shammi Silva and been reminded that at this time Sri Lanka need Pakistan to step up for them as without Pakistan and India matches, the Sri Lankan Board would stand to lose extra revenues from gate money, hospitality sales, etc.," the source added.

'Force majeure': ICC seeks PCB justification

The International Cricket Council has sought an explanation from Pakistan on how the 'force majeure' clause can be invoked to justify the team's refusal to play the T20 World Cup match against India after the PCB tried to wriggle out of the situation by putting the onus on its government.

Details on Page 9

Vaishnaw calls for upskilling to face AI phase

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday called for upskilling and reskilling of students and employees to face major changes posed by the progress of AI.

Speaking at the Qualcomm Technologies event in Bengaluru, where the company announced the successful tape-out of its 2nm semiconductor design, Vaishnaw said India's Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will focus on advanced manufacturing with a roadmap to achieve a 2-nanometre chip that "should also be fabbed in India".

Details on Page 4

MSIL goes digital with chits, eyes Rs 5k-cr turnover

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday launched a dedicated software and mobile app for the state-owned Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL) chit fund operations, in a major digital push to ensure transparency and prevent financial fraud.

Siddaramaiah

Speaking at the launch, the CM highlighted the security of government schemes. "Since MSIL is a state institution, there is no room for fraud often seen in private chit funds. We aim to scale the turnover from the current Rs 500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore in five years," he said.

Details on Page 5

FUN ON THE ICE

Skaters at an ice skating rink at Lakkar Bazar, in Shimla on Saturday. PTI

Three new medical colleges proposed for state

YADGIR, DHNS: The state government has submitted a proposal for setting up three new medical colleges and to add 600 more MBBS seats in Karnataka, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil has said.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, the minister said that it has been proposed to set up new medical colleges at Bagalkot, Ramanagara and Kanakapura. He said that a 400-bed Jayadeva Hospital will be inaugurated in Hubballi in August this year. This year's budget will propose to set up another two to three Jayadeva Hospitals in the state, he added.

Sharan Prakash Patil

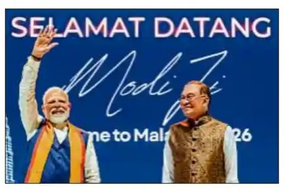
PM says India trusted growth partner, praises Tamil during Malaysia visit

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries.

Modi arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Greeting the Indian community members in different languages, the PM highlighted the singing abilities of his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, particularly his love of Tamil songs of MGR.

"Tamil is India's gift to the world. Tamil literature is eternal, and Tamil culture is global. Tamil people have served humanity with their talents," Modi said.



PM Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim. PTI

Details on Page 8

No wolf litter this season as leopards occupy sanctuary

DH SPECIAL

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Koppal's Bankapur wolf sanctuary, which had emerged as one of the last safe resorts for the carnivores, has not reported sightings of the animal this breeding season. Forest officials fear the arrival of leopards, due to change in habitat at the sanctuary, could have prevented wolves from littering at their regular den.

Sources in the department informed *DH* that Bankapur earlier used to be a transit for leopards during summer. However, since 2021-22, the area has been attracting leopards after the department started planting varieties of plants, making it a home for at least three to four adult leopards.

With the department barring locals and shepherds from using the sanctuary for grazing or other activities that would have preserved the grassland, experts fear wolves might have moved their base.

The 332 ha grassland and rocky area near Bankapur village in Gangavathi taluk was declared Karnataka's first wolf sanctuary in 2021. Experts who have worked in this habitat say the presence of a natural den on one of the hillocks within the sanctuary had become a "maternity ward" for wolves over the last 15–17 years.

During the last two breeding seasons, the den had witnessed a female wolf littering eight pups each year.

However, this year, field staff and officials have not recorded the presence of a single wolf pack in the sanctuary. As monogamous animals, wolves breed once annually between mid-October and the end of December.

They use dens for six to seven months until the pups become strong enough to wander the vast grasslands. Wolves are long-ranging animals and use the natural den and sanctuary area only during the breeding season.

▸ Wolf, Page 5

The natural den at Bankapur wolf sanctuary had recorded the birth of eight wolf pups last year but none this year as leopards have been using the den.
DH FILE PHOTO/PAVAN KUMAR H

SCIENCE BOOST

Govt to inject more value to Kamalapur red bananas

DH SPECIAL

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The GI-tagged Kamalapur red banana is on a path beyond the platter of banana buffs, with the state government planning to develop high-value biomolecules and value-added products from the fruit.

The banana variety, which was accorded the Geographical Indication tag in 2009, is facing an existential threat due to shrinking cultivation area -- In Kalaburagi, it is planted only in 30-40 acres.

Now, officials are planning to scientifically enhance the value of the red banana biomass (fruit, peel, pseudostem, floral parts, etc.) for extraction and development of high-value medical and nutraceutical biomolecules. These include polyphenols, flavonoids, antioxidants; anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory and wound-healing biomolecules; gut-health-promoting compounds, bioactive dietary fibers and prebiotic fractions.

A farmer sells red bananas in Kamalapur town in Kalaburagi.

The Kamalapur red bananas are known for their thick red skin, creamy and sweet pulp, and high nutritional value with rich iron content, potassium and vitamin B6. The fruit is often prescribed to people with anaemia, diabetes and digestive issues.

The IT-BT department has established an advanced commercial tissue culture laboratory dedicated for the GI-tagged red banana in Bengaluru, integrating plant tissue culture, microbial biotechnology and bio-hardening innovations. The department is planning to set up a new laboratory in Kalaburagi soon.

The initiative will also focus on zero-waste, high-value product development, including nutraceutical powders, capsules, functional food ingredients, dietary supplements and bioactive extracts, among others.

▸ Red banana, Page 5

RICH IN CONTENT, POOR IN ACREAGE

Fruit known for thick red skin, creamy and sweet pulp

- Often prescribed to people with anaemia, diabetes and digestive issues
- Govt plans to enhance value of the red banana biomass
- Will extract high-value medical and nutraceutical biomolecules
- Facing an existential threat due to shrinking cultivation area
- In Kalaburagi, it is planted only in 30-40 acres
- Production under stress due to lack of quality planting material, diseases, pests

High nutritional value with rich iron content, potassium and vitamin B6

Bengaluru Sunday, February 8, 2026 Pages 24 Vol 79 No 39 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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India survive USA scare

Skipper SKY scores unbeaten 84 after top-order failure while bowlers fire in unison to ensure victory

P9

Big Picture
Page12

Relationship reset

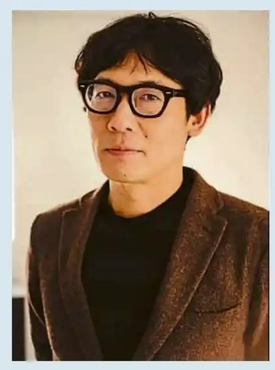
Urban Indians are rethinking adult friendships, deliberately pruning draining connections in favour of smaller, more intentional circles

Travel
Page14

Tiger tales

The Satpura National Park offers the best opportunities for spotting diverse wildlife, including tigers and leopards

Books
Page13



Fiction as a bridge

Bestselling Japanese author Satoshi Yagisawa, who was in Bengaluru recently, tells us why he does not chase literary trends

Quickly

'High-speed diamond coming up'

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said two bullet train corridors for Bengaluru – connecting the city to Chennai and Hyderabad – would connect the three largest economies of south India and create a "high-speed diamond" across the region.
Details on Page 4

GBA area land conversion waived

Karnataka announced it has done away with the land-conversion process in the GBA. "Landowners, who are developers, can now directly apply for plan approval as per the master plan, and land conversion will be carried out automatically as part of the plan approval process," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.
Details on Page 3

RSS chief: All those in India are Hindus

All those living in India are Hindus, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said. He acknowledged India's diversity in languages, food habits, religious practices and deities, but said all these co-exist within a shared cultural framework.
Details on Page 7

All-India strike impacts Bengaluru

Bengaluru's transport system came under further pressure on Saturday as app-based cab and auto drivers participated in an all-India strike, disrupting travel across multiple parts of the city. Commuters reported longer waiting times, frequent cancellations and sharply reduced availability of autos and cabs on popular aggregator platforms.
Details on Page 3A

4 Indians stabbed in Russia

At least six people, including four Indian students, were injured on Saturday in a stabbing attack at a university in Russia's Bashkortostan Republic. According to preliminary reports, a teenager armed with a knife entered a dormitory of the State Medical University in Ufa in the Bashkortostan Republic. The Indian Embassy said officials from the Consulate in Kazan are en route to Ufa.
Details on Page 8

When water kills: The cracks in the urban supply story

Leaking pipes, poor sewage systems, intermittent supply and polluted water sources make drinking water a hazard for millions in India, especially the poor

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

After battling for survival for over a month, Anita Kushwah, 65, passed away last Sunday. First admitted to an Indore hospital on January 28 with severe vomiting and diarrhoea, Anita was initially discharged only to be readmitted in three days as her condition worsened. Reports said she later suffered a cardiac arrest, her kidneys failed, and even after being placed on a ventilator, she could not be saved.

As per an estimate, inadequate drinking water and sanitation facilities account for around 80% of all illnesses in developing countries. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

INSIGHT

Anita's enemy was not a natural disaster or illness, but what flowed from the very taps that were meant to provide clean drinking water. With her death, the official toll in the Indore water contamination tragedy rose to 32. Ironically, it occurred in a city that has been consistently ranked the cleanest in India since the launch of Swachh Survekshan in 2016.

While residents estimated that around 3,000 people in the affected Bhagirathpura area suffered symptoms, with 450 requiring hospitalisation, the state government submitted in the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court that only 16 deaths could possibly be linked to the outbreak, a claim that the bench also questioned.

Lab tests confirmed the presence of E coli, Salmonella and Vibrio cholerae in the water supply. The source? A public toilet was built directly above a 30-year-old water pipeline, without a proper septic tank, allowing sewage to seep through leaking joints. Reports indicated that the residents of the densely populated neighbourhood had complained of foul-smelling, bitter-tasting, discoloured water since mid-December 2025, yet the supply continued.

The incident drew much-needed attention due to its severity and Indore's 'cleanest city' tag, but it took a dismissive '*ghanta*' remark by state cabinet Minister and six-time BJP legislator Kailash Vijayvargiya to catapult into national focus.

Indore's tragedy is not an isolated incident. According to a report by *Down to Earth* published by the Centre for Science and Environment, from January 2025 to January 7, 2026, at least 34 people died and 5,500 people fell ill across 26 cities, including 16 state capitals, spanning 22 states and Union territories after consuming sewage-contaminated piped drinking water.

In Gujarat's capital, Gandhinagar, contaminated drinking water led to a typhoid outbreak, with over 150 people, mostly children, falling ill, in early January. The National Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognisance of the outbreak and sought a report from the state authorities.

Officials determined that leakages in water and sewage pipelines at over two dozen locations may have caused the bacterial outbreak. According to officials, one contributing factor was the ongoing revamp of water and sewage lines, which were laid nearly three decades ago.

▸ Water contamination, Page 2

Today's issue includes DH Classifieds Supplement

'Metric Raj' and its implications for India

Global rankings threaten research integrity, pedagogical freedom and Indian scholarship

SUSHANT KISHORE & NAVNEET SHARMA

The university ranking system in the country has become increasingly prolific. What was once a single annual list has expanded into multiple rankings based on different criteria, released every year by different agencies. QS, for instance, released the World University Rankings in June 2025 and World University Rankings: Sustainability 2026 in November 2025. These rankings rely heavily on data curated by Scopus, a subscription-based database of peer-reviewed literature that indexes journals, conference proceedings and other scholarly content worldwide.

The rise of such global ranking systems has had profound consequences for Indian higher education. This change represents a shift in sovereignty: the power to define intellectual excellence has moved from the democratic institutions of the country to private, transnational oligopolies. We describe this phenomenon as the 'Metric Raj'. The evaluation of an Indian academic's worth is no longer based on the quality of their teaching or the depth of their social engagement, but on their digital footprint in a proprietary database.

These databases, however, are neither neutral nor holistic, and certainly not altruistic. They privilege English-language journal articles, reward quantity over rigour and serve commercial interests while presenting themselves as measures of scholarly excellence. This reflects globalisation's impact on knowledge systems, with national academic authority increasingly influenced by foreign commercial entities in the name of international competitiveness.

The 'Metric Raj' represents a new form of colonisation, where the power to determine what counts as legitimate knowledge has been surrendered to algorithms accountable only to shareholders.

For Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Scopus plays a central role in evaluation, with recruitment, promotion, funding and institutional rankings increasingly linked to metrics derived from this database.

This dependence has shaped research practices, influenced data reporting and affected the allocation of resources within the Indian research ecosystem. As policies like the National Education Policy (NEP), Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and others force Indian universities to chase global rankings, the measure has become the target, creating a culture in which students are viewed less as minds to be moulded and more as citations to be harvested.

The rapid rise of global ranking systems of universities in recent years is significantly reshaping Indian higher education. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The SUNDAY STORY

To understand the pressures within Indian academia, it is useful to consider the role of RELX, the parent company of Elsevier, which describes itself as a "global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools."

The company's model involves academics contributing research and peer review without direct compensation, while the published content is sold to universities and governments. In this system, knowledge production is intertwined with commercial interests and many academics work under increasingly precarious career conditions.

Institutions now pay more for bundled agreements with publishers than they once did for subscriptions. Authors face article processing charges (APCs) of up to $11,400 (over ten lakh rupees) and researchers from institutions without such agreements are increasingly excluded from publishing in prestigious journals.

Beyond this, there may be aspects of deeper colonisation at play.

▸ University ranking system, Page 2

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Linked insurance products are different from the traditional insurance products and are subject to the risk factors.
The premium paid in linked insurance policies are subject to investment risks associated with capital markets and publicly available index. NAVs of the units may go up or down based on the performance of fund and factors influencing the capital market/publicly available index and the insured is responsible for his/her decisions.
Life Insurance Corporation of India is only the name of the Life Insurance Company and Protection Plus is only the name of the linked insurance contract and does not in any way indicate the quality of the contract, its future prospects or returns.
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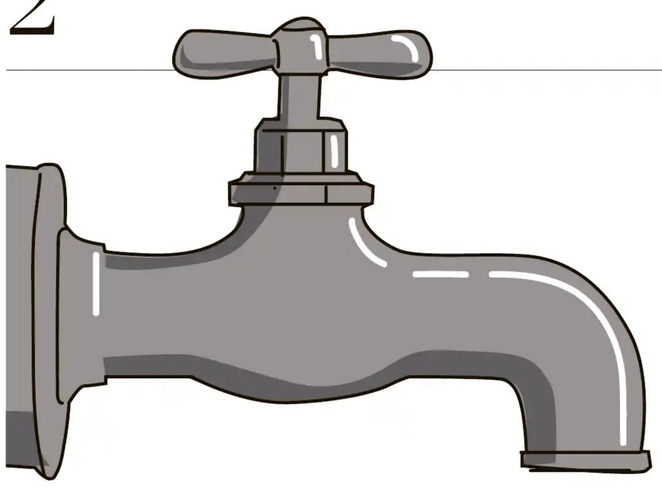


Maintenance, not milestones

India's struggle for safe water

Each year, almost 5 lakh Indian children under five die from diarrhoea, largely due to unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene

Nearly **70%** of all disease outbreaks reported by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are waterborne

As per a national survey (Dec 2022-Nov 2023), only **46 of 485** cities supply clean drinking water to citizens

- Rapid urbanisation, poor water supply infrastructure, untreated sewage, industrial effluents, agricultural runoff and improper waste disposal techniques are the main causes of **water contamination**
- India is expanding water infrastructure through **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** and **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**

Increase in piped water coverage

In urban areas

2011	49%
2025-26	77%

(*Including connections under AMRUT)

In rural areas

2019	17%
2025-26	80.2%

(*Connections under JJM)

6% urban households get drinkable water from tap

- 6% of urban Indian households get drinkable quality water from local body
- 30% get good quality water but not drinkable quality
- 21% get poor quality water
- 7% receive very poor quality water

62% households use some kind of modern filtration mechanism

(*As per the responses of a survey conducted by a private company in 2024-25)

2.6% samples contaminated in rural India

58.74 lakh
Water samples tested in India under JJM in 2025-26 (Till Feb 4, 2026)

1.53 lakh
Samples found contaminated

40,135 cases
Remedial action taken

Delhi's groundwater most contaminated

- Delhi's groundwater is among the most contaminated in India, with elevated levels of uranium, lead, nitrate and other toxic metals
- Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and parts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh show high levels of uranium in groundwater
- In Karnataka, the groundwater situation is critical in Bengaluru South (Ramanagara) and Tumakuru districts

Major water contaminants

85%	Industrial waste
75%	Agriculture runoff
70%	Domestic wastewater
60%	Heavy metal contamination
55%	Microbial contamination
50%	Fluoride contamination
45%	Nitrate contamination
40%	Salinity intrusion

Sharp rise in water-borne diseases in India

Disease	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hepatitis A	4,089	7,603	15,224	44,400	40,464
Hepatitis E	1,360	2,050	1,856	3,730	2,537
Cholera	217	601	649	2,273	1,131
Leptospirosis	6,086	10,086	14,217	24,109	20,888
Typhoid	1.95 lakh	4 lakh	5.7 lakh	6 lakh	5.7 lakh
Acute diarrhoeal diseases (ADD) (Suspected cases)	60 lakh	29 lakh	18 lakh	23 lakh	23.5 lakh

- In 2025, **Madhya Pradesh** reported **56,007 cases** of typhoid, the highest in the country, followed by **Karnataka (39,348)** and **Chhattisgarh (38,692)**
- In cholera, **Delhi** topped with **385 cases** followed by **Gujarat (215)** and **Karnataka (137 cases)**
- **Kerala** logged the highest **4,279 Leptospirosis cases**, followed by **Tamil Nadu (2,934)** and **Karnataka (2,334)**

2,870 water testing labs in India under JJM

2,185
Institutional labs

685
Water treatment plant labs

(Source: JJM website; 'Challenges and Solutions in Urban Water Supply in India', PubAdmin.Institute; 'The Sources, Effects, and Mitigation Strategies of Water Contamination on Public Health and Ecosystems in the Major city of India', IJRAR; RS discussion, India Health Foundation blog, Local Circles, media reports)

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI**
DH GRAPHIC: **SAGAR M S**

Water contamination, from Page 1

In Bengaluru's Lingarajapuram, a tragedy was narrowly averted after residents complained about foul-smelling water, and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) promptly stopped the supply. A day later, using robotic technology, the agency identified the exact spot of contamination and replaced the affected pipeline.

Officials said the pipeline was over 40 years old and had started corroding.

Beyond sewage contamination, drinking water in cities is sometimes marred by dangerous chemicals. Delhi relies heavily on the Yamuna River for about 40% of its water supply. However, the river is heavily polluted with industrial waste and high ammonia levels. This has repeatedly forced water treatment plants to shut down or operate at reduced capacity, with key facilities like Wazirabad and Chandrawal curtailing output by 25-50%, causing shortages that affect millions of residents. In January 2026, elevated ammonia levels rendered the water too toxic to treat, resulting in black, foul-smelling water in some areas and disruptions that lasted several days.

A 2025 report by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) found that in Delhi, 13-15% of groundwater samples contained uranium above safe limits, along with elevated levels of salinity, nitrates, fluoride and other heavy metals. A Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit released in January also pointed out that nearly 55% of tested groundwater samples in Delhi were unsafe for consumption.

An estimate suggests that in developing countries, inadequate drinking water and sanitation facilities account for around 80% of all illnesses.

Access to water and sanitation is recognised by the United Nations as a human right – fundamental to everyone's health, dignity and prosperity.

In several other reported and unreported cases, a similar pattern emerges—old leaking pipes, sewage contamination, poor planning and ignored complaints—pointing to systematic failures in how Indian cities often fail to deliver clean water, a basic amenity, to their citizens.

The journey of water

For almost all cities, the journey of water starts at treatment centres, where water is pumped from multiple sources, including rivers and lakes. At these centres, the water is mandated to be treated as per BIS 10500: 2012 drinking water quality standards.

Taking the example of water pumping in Bengaluru, M N Thippeswamy, retired chief engineer of BWSSB, explained, "Water is pumped to the city in three stages and goes to different reservoirs within the city."

From these ground-level reservoirs, water flows through a hierarchical network.

While the initial steps are largely safe, contamination most often occurs in the final step, when clean drinking water is being transported to households through feeder mains. Water pipelines running in close proximity to sewage-carrying pipelines significantly increase the risk of contamination.

"The most critical point of pollution occurs when feeder mains pass through multiple areas, crisscrossing storm water drains and sewage lines," Thippeswamy says. "When these lines crisscross, the joints are vulnerable."

However, multiple experts have highlighted that one of the greatest drawbacks of our water supply system remains intermittent supply. In most cities, water is often supplied twice or thrice a day, usually during specified timings.

"When no water is being supplied, there is low pressure in the pipeline. It allows outer contaminants to enter the pipeline during this time. Surrounding groundwater, if mixed with raw sewage, can enter the drinking water system through cracks and loose joints. This is called back siphonage or intrusion," Subrata Chakraborty, Director, Water Program at the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment, told *DH*.

Structural challenges

The 2024 *Manual on Water Supply and Treatment Systems*, published by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO), specifies that water mains should maintain a minimum horizontal separation of three metres from sewage lines. When water and sewage lines must cross, the water main's bottom should be at least 0.5 metres above the top of the sewer.

"If you maintain the distance, the chance of contamination is low," says Subrata. "But to maintain the distance, you need to identify the drinking water line and then go below that to install sewer lines. This is a challenge."

The challenge stems from the order in which the infrastructure is developed. "Almost all urban local bodies have some drinking water supply system," Subrata explains. "But not all areas of these cities are covered under sewer line systems. So, drinking water lines are already there. Now, when you need to lay down sewer lines, engineers first need to identify the drinking water line and go below it."

Implementing this requires tools, training and documentation, resources that most cities lack. "When excavation begins, you can see multiple pipes going here and there, and it is very difficult to identify which is the drinking water line," Subrata says.

Another challenge stems from the institutional fragmentation of departments. While the drinking water supply is managed by one agency, sewage lines fall under another. Although data, including maps, are shareable, effective coordination often remains elusive.

Vishwanath Srikantaiah, popularly known as the Rain Man of Bengaluru, highlighted another problem about the ageing underground infrastructure. "The typical lifespan of pipes is around 30-40 years. However, there is no publicly available database storing information about these pipelines. It is usually only when some incidents happen that they are changed or repaired."

Asset replacement requires funds that cities often claim they lack. "Some amount is earmarked for asset replacement. They start with the oldest pipelines, gradually replacing them," Thippeswamy says. "But finances are always limited."

Addressing water contamination also requires tackling an issue that most cities prefer to ignore: the lack of proper sewage infrastructure. While several cities lack basic facilities for sewage management, even in those that have some sewage infrastructure, coverage remains incomplete.

"For Delhi, around 50% of areas are non-sewered. For Greater Hyderabad, one-third of the city is still non-sewered," Subrata notes. Where sewer lines don't exist, the quality of septic tanks becomes critical—but here too, the system has failed. Although standards for the septic tank design exist, they are generally flouted, as in the case of Indore. With a lack of construction oversight, the septic tanks leak sewage into groundwater or water pipelines, contaminating the very sources from which cities draw drinking water.

The geography of contamination outbreaks often follows a pattern. Bhagirathpura, where Anita Kushwah died, is a densely populated, lower-income neighbourhood. Most affected areas across Indian cities share these characteristics.

Physical constraints in these areas create the conditions for contamination. "In most of the slum areas or remote areas, roads are very narrow. Both the water supply and sewer lines run through these narrow roads. That is where a lot of pollution takes place. These are critical areas where we have to verify water quality very frequently," said Thippeswamy.

The picture is even more stark among the poor, who are usually dependent on the government-supplied drinking water, while wealthier households turn to UV and RO systems or bottled water.

Big-ticket projects

On paper, programmes like the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) were meant to address precisely these failures. Launched in 2015 and now in its second phase (AMRUT 2.0), the mission focuses on achieving universal water supply, expanding sewerage coverage and reducing unaccounted water in urban India. Cities were encouraged to replace old pipelines, expand sewer networks and move towards 24x7 water supply to prevent contamination caused by intermittent pressure.

Yet a decade on, the outcomes remain uneven. While AMRUT-funded projects have added treatment capacity and kilometres of pipelines, experts point out that the mission has prioritised coverage and infrastructure creation over long-term operation, maintenance and monitoring.

Intermittent supply, which AMRUT seeks to eliminate, still remains the norm in most cities. "Unless cities move decisively towards continuous, pressurised water supply, back siphonage will remain a recurring risk," Subrata noted.

Odisha is one of the few states that have explicitly attempted to break away from intermittent water supply. Launched in 2020, Odisha's 24×7 drinking water programme aims to provide continuous, potable water directly from household taps, starting with Bhubaneswar and gradually expanding to other urban areas. By ensuring round-the-clock pressurised supply, the state seeks to prevent back siphonage.

"When there is continuous pressure in the pipes, it is difficult for contaminants to enter the water supply. It also requires fewer resources with no need for sump tanks, motors or other storage facilities," said Vishwanath, advocating for governments to push for 24/7 water supply.

Thippeswamy advocated that the BWSSB should adopt a Water Safety Plan, a comprehensive measure based on constant risk assessment and management, as advised by the World Health Organization.

To ensure every Indian citizen's basic right to clean drinking water, cities and governments need to prioritise maintenance over milestones, continuous supply over stop-gap fixes, quality over quantity, and the safety of the most vulnerable neighbourhoods over headline-friendly rankings.

(With inputs from Ajith Athrady in New Delhi, E T B Sivapriyan in Chennai, Satish Jha in Ahmedabad and S N V Sudhir in Hyderabad)

WHY CITIES STRUGGLE WITH SAFE WATER

- **Ageing pipeline networks:** Many Indian cities continue to rely on colonial-era water networks with severe leakage, resulting in water losses of 30–50% in most urban areas
- **Intermittent supply:** Most Indian cities supply water for only 2–6 hours a day, leading to poor household storage practices and deterioration in water quality
- **Poor technical capacity:** Many water treatment plants operate with outdated technology and Urban Local Bodies often lack the expertise and staff needed for effective water management
- **Secondary contamination:** Even treated water is often contaminated during distribution due to leaking pipes and sewage cross-connections
- **Management problems:** The involvement of multiple agencies across the water supply cycle, along with low tariffs and poor fee collection, undermines the sustainability of water utilities

Public health threat

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

When sewage contaminates drinking water, the earliest and most common consequence is acute gastroenteritis.

"People typically develop watery diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, fever and rapid dehydration within hours or days of exposure. In severe cases, particularly with cholera-like infections, dehydration can become life-threatening, sometimes in a matter of hours," explains Dr Prashanth N Srinivas, Director & Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru.

From a public health standpoint, diagnosis is not the first priority. "In the initial hours, the focus is on treating dehydration and shock," Prashant said. This is why oral rehydration salts (ORS) and intravenous fluids remain the most critical life-saving tools, even at primary health centres.

Whether the exposure turns fatal depends largely on how quickly the treatment begins. Rapid fluid loss can lead to shock, kidney failure, electrolyte imbalance and sepsis. Infants, young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with malnutrition, anaemia or weakened immunity are especially vulnerable. "The same contaminated water event can cause mild illness in some, but can become life-threatening when dehydration is rapid, and care is delayed," Prashant says.

While most survivors recover fully, repeated or severe infections can leave lasting scars. In children, recurrent waterborne illnesses are linked to growth faltering, undernutrition and poorer cognitive development.

Such disease outbreaks also test the health system's preparedness. Although India's guidelines mandate ORS, IV fluids and rational antibiotic use, sudden spikes of cases can expose stock-outs, workforce shortages and gaps in urban primary healthcare. Ultimately, Prashant argues, such crises are "not merely medical emergencies but governance failures," where preventable deaths signal breakdowns in safe water delivery, early warning and rapid response systems.

University ranking system, from Page 1

Indigenous and non-English knowledge systems at risk

These proprietary databases increasingly influence what is considered recognised knowledge, fostering a Scopus-centric view, where works not indexed in Scopus may be perceived as less legitimate, less valuable or less widely acknowledged internationally.

This tendency risks marginalisation of journals from the Global South, indigenous knowledge systems, and non-English scholarship.

Researcher Simon van Bellen and his team, in a paper published in *arXIV* found that when scholarly coverage expands beyond Scopus's curated corpus, the dominance of five major publishers drops from 59% to 37-38%. Google Scholar finds substantially more citations than any other database regardless of subject area. Dimensions include more than 147 million publications compared to Scopus's 90.6 million and incorporates clinical trials, grants, datasets, and policy documents, and provides significantly broader coverage of Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities.

RELX has shifted its focus towards data-driven services. Indian universities engage with these services not only as consumers of scholarly content but also as participants in a system that tracks and evaluates academic outputs. Universities increasingly use data-driven tools, and administrative decisions are informed by insights generated from these systems.

Obsession with metrics

When high-stakes rewards are tied to a quantifiable metric, that metric ceases to be a reliable measure. In India, this sociological axiom is unfolding with alarming clarity with the rise of paper mills, citation manipulation and predatory publishing.

The obsession with commercially produced metrics has resulted in a fourfold drain on the scientific ecosystem, money, time, trust and control, placing a significant burden on national development. This gives rise to what may be called the 'absent professor syndrome', where faculty is physically present but intellectually absent, their attention consumed by the relentless demands of producing the next paper.

Innovative teaching, which requires time, reflection and creativity yet yields no Academic Performance Indicators (API) points, is actively disincentivised. Universities are increasingly turning into research factories, where teachers paradoxically begin to view teaching as a secondary activity.

The aspiration to integrate Indian higher education into the global knowledge economy was indeed noble but the blind adoption of commercial metrics has turned into a Faustian bargain.

Colonial bureaucracy

The 'Metric Raj' operates as a system of

control as effective as any colonial bureaucracy. It extracts wealth through APCs and subscriptions, imposes foreign standards and governs from a distant, unaccountable authority. Indian academia now sacrifices time, money and efforts to sustain this algorithmic apparatus.

While the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was envisioned as an indigenous alternative against Western academic hegemony, it has instead internalised the neocolonial logic of the 'Metric Raj'. Rather than asserting pedagogical sovereignty, NIRF has integrated Scopus-derived metrics into the machinery of national governance, influencing research grant allocation, institutional autonomy, student loan eligibility and even bank lending criteria.

Indian universities now find themselves trapped within concentric circles of commercial metrics, each layer appearing independently rational and domestically determined, yet all ultimately reinforcing subordination to foreign commercial databases.

The consequences have been catastrophic. NIRF's integration of Scopus metrics has triggered what the framework itself acknowledges as a "dangerous race for quantity over quality." India now ranks second globally in research retractions—a distinction achieved not through scholarly excellence, but through the systematic incentivisation of misconduct.

This shift represents a sophisticated form of self-colonisation. By embedding external metrics into national funding and grant allocation mechanisms, the Indian state has granted nationalist legitimacy to a subordinate position.

The 'Metric Raj', operationalised through NIRF, has achieved what QS or Times Higher Education alone could not, the voluntary, enthusiastic self-enforcement of subordination by the very institutions being evaluated. This internalisation has fuelled a crisis of academic integrity, transforming the pursuit of knowledge into a high stakes hunt for volume, propelling India to the global summit of research retractions.

(Sushant Kishore teaches in Vellore Institute of Technology and Navneet Sharma teaches in Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Views are personal)

LIVELIHOODS IMPERILLED Delays distribution of ID cards; those issued earlier invalid

BBMP–GBA transition leaves city's street vendors in limbo

KORAH ABRAHAM
BENGALURU, DHNS

On most mornings in Basavanagudi, flower seller Vanaja is not thinking about sales or customers. Instead, she is calculating how long she can stay put before a police constable asks her to leave. A former member of the town vending committee (TVC), Vanaja says despite repeated surveys and assurances, not a single identity card that legally recognises them as street vendors has reached them.

"Earlier, we were constantly insisting that BBMP get our survey done so that we can get formal identity cards. Now, the survey is done, but BBMP has become GBA," Vanaja tells *DH*, sounding concerned.

"Without ID cards, police treat us like we don't exist. We are running between GBA office and police stations just to earn a living," she adds.

The transformation of BBMP as Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has stalled a process that vendors say was already delayed: issuance of identity cards, making them vulnerable to police harassment and being evicted from spots from where they have been earning a living for years.

Across the city, vendors echo similar fears. In Indiranagar, fruit pushcart vendor Murugan said police threats of eviction had become routine. He is one of those vendors who has an ID given by BBMP several years ago, but it's not valid anymore.

"We were surveyed last year. We waited for months, but nothing happened," Murugan said.

"The police say BBMP cards are invalid, because it's GBA now. Every morning, instead of thinking about customers, we think about eviction. This job fed my family and educated my children. Today, I'm told my job is illegal because the government hasn't given me an ID card".

The numbers' dispute

At the heart of the crisis lies a contentious figure: 27,000. That is the number of street vendors identified in a survey conducted by erstwhile BBMP between September and December 2024. Vendors' unions, however, say the figure grossly undercounts Bengaluru's actual street vending population, which they estimate to be at least one lakh - a number reflected in PM-SVANidhi loan data and independent studies.

The gap has triggered unrest among vendor groups, which argue that a smaller official count makes it easier for authorities to declare a majority of vendors "unauthorised".

"They are fixing vending zones only for those 27,000 people," said Nanjappa, a street vendor in Jayanagar. "Everyone else becomes disposable," he adds.

Vendors' unions say this is not the first time such exclusions have occurred. A similar survey in 2017, they say, left out thousands.

Law on paper

In the run-up to the Assembly elections in 2023, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had said street vendors were not encroachers, but "assets of the city", recalling that the erstwhile UPA government at the Centre had brought in a law to guarantee them space and protection.

That law – Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, was meant to shield vendors from arbitrary eviction.

Street vendors sell vegetables at KR market. The transition from BBMP to GBA has stalled a process that vendors say was already delayed: issuance of identity cards, making them vulnerable to police harassment. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Yet, more than two years later, Bengaluru's street vendors say the city's civic transition has left them more vulnerable than ever.

Vendor associations say the civic body's actions violate the very law Rahul referred to during his campaign.

"The Street Vendors Act was brought to prevent arbitrary evictions," said S Babu, president of the Federation of Bengaluru District Street Vendors' Association.

"It clearly states vendors must be surveyed, issued ID cards and protected from eviction, unless the town vending committee (TVC) takes a decision otherwise".

Section 3 (3) of the Act says no vendor can be evicted till surveys are completed and vending certificates are issued. Sec 18(3) mandates a 30-day notice before eviction or relocation – a safeguard which vendors say is routinely ignored.

"No civic authority can evict a street vendor without a TVC decision," he said.

"Even migrant vendors are protected. Before relocation, basic facilities like toilets, drinking water, electricity and storage spaces must be provided".

The other problem is the absence of a TVC itself. According to vendors' unions, after the term of the previous TVC ended in 2020, a fresh committee has not been constituted.

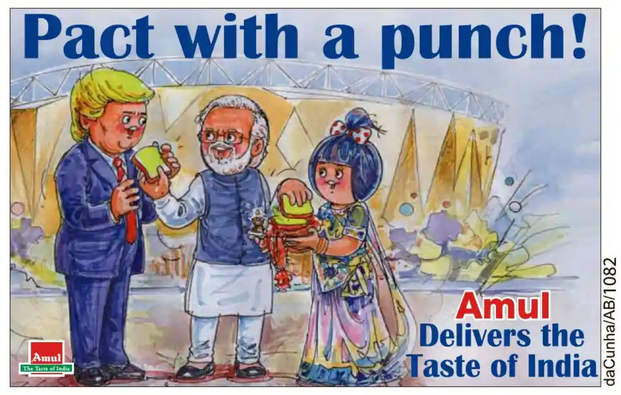
Advocate Vinay Sreenivasa, a member of the street vendors' unions, told *DH* that GBA had plans of setting up temporary TVCs in each of the five new corporations, but nothing has happened so far.

"Everything with regard to street vendors and their lives has come to a standstill and their livelihoods are under threat," he said.

Legal experts say the Supreme Court has consistently upheld vendors' right to livelihood, including in the landmark Hawkers' Union vs BMC judgment, which ruled that evictions without due process or rehabilitation were unconstitutional.

ID cards soon

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao told *DH* that officials had been instructed to distribute ID cards at the earliest. He attributed the delay to administrative changes during transition from BBMP to GBA.



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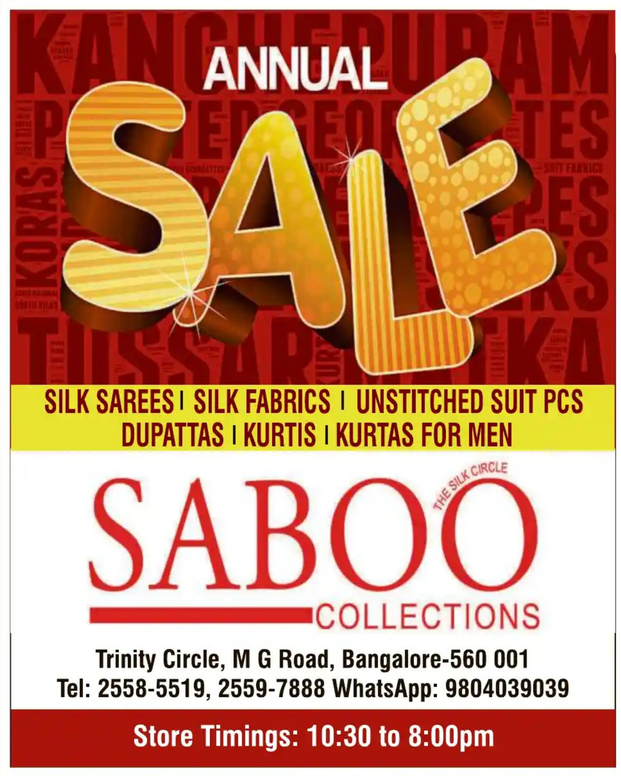
B'luru East Corpn to instal solar systems on its bldgs

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to achieve self-sufficiency in power generation, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has decided to instal solar systems atop roofs of its offices.

"Officials were instructed to prepare detailed project report and funding proposal for installing solar panels on all city corporation buildings to promote energy self-sufficiency," a statement by it said. The corporation owes Bescom lakhs of rupees in power dues.

"The MD of Bescom informed us that dues of Rs 1,526 crore are pending from GBA and city corporations. We asked Bescom officials to provide consolidated details of arrears up to Sept 1, 2025 and separate list of arrears after that," said D S Ramesh, commissioner, BECC.

Ramesh asked officials to follow up with government and get clearance from forest department for acquiring land for widening Panathur Road and for railway overbridge. On damage sustained by service roads on stretch of the Outer Ring Road between Silk Board Junction and KR Puram owing to overflowing rainwater, Ramesh instructed officials to co-ordinate with BMRCL and inspect plumbing on flyovers and Metro lines.


ANNUAL
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SILK SAREES I SILK FABRICS I UNSTITCHED SUIT PCS
DUPATTAS I KURTIS I KURTAS FOR MEN
THE SILK CIRCLE
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COLLECTIONS
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Tel: 2558-5519, 2559-7888 WhatsApp: 9804039039
Store Timings: 10:30 to 8:00pm

K'taka removes land conversion requirement in GBA

Process will be part of plan approval procedure

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government announced on Saturday that it has done away with the cumbersome land-conversion process in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) which has a comprehensive development plan (CDP).

"Landowners, who are developers, can now directly apply for plan approval as per the master plan, and land conversion will be carried out automatically as part of the plan approval process," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Agricultural lands covered by a master plan required conversion for non-agricultural use. "This process typically took 4–6 months and often led to delays, harassment, corruption, and increased costs due to middlemen," Gowda said.

"These inefficiencies ultimately burdened site buyers and brought disrepute to the government," Gowda said. Recently, the government did away with the need for conversion of farmlands for renewable energy projects.

The auto-conversion feature has been introduced "to promote planned development and improve ease of doing business," the minister said.

"By integrating auto-conversion with e-Khatha and digitised land records, the government aims to reduce litigation and provide greater certainty in property ownership," he said.

Gowda said the auto-conversion initiative "is a bold and transformative reform that simplifies one of the most complex and corruption-prone processes in land development."

Khata conversion

As per the master plan provisions, conversion from 'B' khata to 'A' khata for existing individual property owners is also now enabled by law, bringing significant relief to lakhs of site owners, Gowda said.

"The enabling provision for auto-conversion provides a legal framework to convert 'B' khata to 'A' khata. "Obtaining 'A' khata strengthens legal ownership, enables access to bank loans, increases property value, simplifies transactions and approvals," Gowda said.

Soon, GBA to launch climate action podcast

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to raise awareness about the various initiatives undertaken to address climate change, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to launch a Climate Action podcast that will feature experts and stakeholders. GBA has also prepared a ward-level climate action plan that will be implemented in one ward in in each of the five corporations of Bengaluru.

"Ward-level climate action plans enable comprehensive assessment of local issues and help implement appropriate, area-specific solutions effectively," said GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

Rao added that under the GBA climate action cell, with the support of working groups, detailed analyses have been carried out in the selected wards across sectors, including energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste, urban planning, greenery and biodiversity, water, waste water and stormwater, and disaster management. Based on these assessments, Climate Action Plans have been formulated.

Similar action plans will be prepared for the remaining wards in a phased manner following separate assessments.

GBA will also constitute a technical cell to provide scientific analysis, data-driven planning, and technical guidance for effective execution of climate action projects.

"To strengthen implementation and improve citizen participation, instructions have been issued to establish an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Cell to create awareness at the ward level about climate action initiatives and encourage public engagement," Rao said.

Wards selected for the climate action plan: Shantinagar from Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Jakkur from Bengaluru North City Corporation, Begur fom Bengaluru South City Corporation, Vijinapura from Bengaluru East City Corporation, and Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar from Bengaluru West City Corporation.

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APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM INDIAN CITIZENS FOR THE POST OF GENERAL MANAGER (GM) ON A CONTRACT BASIS

1. **Age :** Above **45** years and below **65** Years.
2. **Post Required :** 1 (One) Post
3. **Qualification :** As per fit and proper Criteria Prescribed by Reserve Bank of India No. RBI/2021-22/6000R GOV REC. 25/12 10 000/2021-22. **Dated: 25-06-2021.**
4. **Eligibility :** The person shall be a graduate, preferably with
   a) Qualification in barking/Co-operative banking such as CAIIB/Diploma in Banking and Finance/Diploma in Co-Operative Business Management or equivalent qualification or
   b) Chartered/Cost Accountant/MBA (Finance) or
   c) Post graduation in any discipline.
   d) The person should have a combined experience of at least eight years at the Middle/senior management level in the banking sector (including the experience gained in the concerned UCB) or non-banking finance companies engaged in lending (loan companies) and asset financing.
   e) Knowledge of Kannada Language speaking & writing.
   f) The tenure of **GM** shall not be for a period more than five years at a time subject to a Minimum period of Three years at time of first appointment.
5. **Salary :** Shall be commensurate with experience and qualification. However the Candidate may indicate expected salary.
6. **Submission of Application** should be submitted on white paper along with recent passport size photo and necessary documents of qualification and experience in duplicate (self attested **to Chairman of NRC Shri Shiddeshwar Co-Operative Bank Ltd. administrative Office Shri Shiddeshwar Road, Vijayapur-586101. Karnataka.**
7. **Last Date of receiving application :** Application should reach by us on or before Date : **25/02/2026.**

General Instructions :

1) Before applying, the candidate should ensure that he/she fulfills the eligibility criteria of RBI and other norms mentioned in this advertisement; Bank reserves the right to accept or reject the application at any stage of the recruitment process without assigning any reason thereof. 2) Candidate should attend the interview at their own cost. 3) Bank reserves the right to alter, revise, add or delete any of the conditions mentioned above. 4) Decision of the Bank in all matters regarding eligibility of the candidate, the stages at which such scrutiny or eligibility is to be the undertaken, the documents to be produced for the purpose of interview, selection and any other matters relating to recruitment will be final and binding on the candidate. The decision of Reserve Bank of India will be final for the final Selection of candidate for the appointment of GM among the short listed candidates by the NRC and BOD. No. correspondence or personal enquiries would be entertained by the bank in this regard. 5) For any clarification on please contact on **Mobile No. 9353096653.**

Place : Vijayapur.
Date : 07-02-2026

Sd/-
Chairman

Central Corporation plans to set up eye hospital

Non-profit organisation to run facility with CSR funds

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) is planning to partner with non-profit organisations to set up a dedicated eye hospital for the public in Shanthinagar.

The hospital will provide eye care services for free to the public.

"From regular eye check-ups to providing spectacles, the NGO which manages the hospital will take up all the activities," said Rajendra Cholan, Commissioner, BCCC.

While the BCCC will provide space to operate the facility, the NGO will partner with various organisations and utilise the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to operate the facility at a free of cost for the public.

"Many companies are willing to come forward and take up such activities. Hence, we are confident that they will be able to pool resources to ensure the public can get the available services at a free of cost," Cholan said.

According to senior officials from BCCC, there are many notified and unnotified slums around the area and the eye hospital will help them.

Regular camps

"One of the objectives we have set for them is that they have to hold regular eye check up camps by visiting these slums. The service has to reach the doorsteps of these people. Accessibility is the key," a senior official from BCCC said.

Cholan added the proposal was taken up based on the request by the residents.

"Everytime we hold a grievance redressal meeting or any public meeting, the residents of the area request for such a facility," he said.

He added that more such hospitals could be opened up based on the response from the public.

Earlier, in 2024, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had planned to offer dental treatment and physiotherapy services at a few selected PHCs in the city.

However, the proposal did not take off as the BBMP was split into five corporations and the administration changed.

However, sources in Greater Bengaluru Authority said that the individual corporations have been asked to take a relook at the proposal.

Win all five B'luru corpns, Ram Madhav exhorts BJP

Go all out in GBA polls, he tells partymen

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior BJP leader Ram Madhav, appointed as the election in-charge for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections, on Saturday, chaired a key strategy meeting at the party's state headquarters and urged party leaders to go "all out" to ensure a clean sweep in all five corporations.

Ram Madhav is scheduled to revisit Bengaluru on February 28 and March 1 to review the party's preparedness further and fine-tune the election strategy.

Former chief minister B S Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BJP's city MPs and MLAs and the party's office-bearers attended the meeting.

The state leaders apprised Madhav of key organisational challenges arising from the reorganisation of the city into five corporations, particularly the mismatch created by the Legislative Assembly constituencies being split across multiple corporations following delimitation to allegedly favour the ruling Congress.

They also highlighted that the elections were being held after a 10-year gap, which has resulted in the loss of an entire generation of grassroots leadership.

Madhav, while exhorting the leaders in the closed-door meeting, told them that he had anchored 10 elections, including the Jammu and Kashmir polls, and the strike rate has been cent per cent.

He stressed the need for aggressive organisational mobilisation, noting that the upcoming GBA polls are crucial for reclaiming Bengaluru.

The BJP must bridge that gap through intensive cadre-level engagement, as the reservation fixation and electoral procedures would give the party ample time to strengthen the ward-level committees, he said.

According to the party sources, the BJP plans to appoint state-level leaders for each corporation and hold separate meetings in all Assembly segments.

Each constituency will hold meetings involving the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to ensure better coordination and monitoring. The party is aiming for a "100 per cent strike rate" across all five corporations, they said.

Later, addressing the media, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said the party has held marathon discussions on the GBA elections and expressed confidence of winning all five corporations.

He alleged that Bengaluru has seen no development over the last two-and-a-half years due to corruption, price hikes and governance paralysis under the Congress government.

Strike by app-based cab, auto drivers hits city transport

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city's already strained transport system came under further pressure on Saturday as app-based cab and auto drivers participated in an all-India strike, disrupting travel across multiple parts of the city.

The strike was called by the Karnataka App-based Workers Union (KAWU).

Commuters reported longer waiting times, frequent cancellations and sharply reduced availability of autos and cabs on aggregator platforms, especially during the morning peak hour. The high demand also led to hikes in prices in congested areas, such as the Outer Ring Road and Sarjapur Road. Travel to the airport was also impacted.

"We had to wait for more than an hour to get an auto or a cab. While we are already at higher rates, why should we end up adding tips, but still drivers don't accept rides?" said Geetha K, an Iblur resident.

The union has demanded immediate notification of minimum base fares for aggregator services and a ban on the use of private, non-commercial vehicles for commercial transport.

"In Bengaluru, the drivers are not protesting on the streets but instead they refuse to log in to aggregator platforms," said Mohammad Inayath Ali, founding president of KAWU.

Cops inspect 326 units in anti-narcotics drive

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police on Friday conducted a special drive across the East Division to curb the manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of narcotic substances.

Acting on the directions of the commissioner of police, teams inspected 45 chemical manufacturing units, 165 workshops and 116 warehouses.

A senior police officer said the drive was aimed at safeguarding public health and preventing the misuse of chemical substances, particularly to protect youth from drug abuse.

During the inspections, owners and operators of the units were warned of strict legal action if they were involved in any illegal activities related to narcotic substances. However, no suspicious materials were found during the thorough inspections, the police officer added.

CADET POWER

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a programme to felicitate NCC cadets from the Karnataka and Goa directorate who participated in the 2026 Republic Day Parade, in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Suspected terror accused dies in Central Jail

BENGALURU, DHNS: A suspected terror accused lodged in Bengaluru Central Jail died due to illness late on Friday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sadiq Basha (47), who had been undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital, succumbed despite medical care. He had been suffering from multiple health issues, including low blood pressure and diabetes, for the past six months. Basha was a resident of Sonnenahalli in Viveknagar.

Basha was at Central Jail since 2020 in connection with a case related to the storage of explosive materials under the Suddaguntepalya police station limits.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had conducted raids and arrested six suspects in the case.

A case of unnatural death has been registered at Parappana Agrahara police station based on a complaint filed by prisons authorities.

New BMTC bus stops closer to 10 metro stations

BENGALURU, DHNS

To improve last-mile connectivity, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced new bus stops closer to 10 metro stations on Purple and Green lines.

The changes followed joint inspections conducted with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Bengaluru traffic police. Commuters had complained that at some locations, BMTC bus stops were located far away from metro stations.

Starting February 5, bus stop locations have been changed at the following metro stations:

Trinity: Near 'B' entrance (opposite Hotel Oberoi) for passengers travelling from MG Road towards Halasuru.

Hoodi: Near 'B' entrance (opposite D'Mart) for passengers travelling from Seetharamapalya towards Garudacharpalya.

Manjunathanagar: Below metro station near 'A' entrance for passengers travelling from Chikkabidarakallu towards Nagasandra.

Peenya: Opposite the metro station on the service road for passengers travelling from Goraguntepalya towards Peenya Industrial Area. Another new bus stop has been provided below the metro station near 'B' entrance for passengers travelling from Peenya Industrial Area towards Goraguntepalya.

Lalbagh: Next to metro station near 'B' entrance for passengers travelling from Lalbagh towards Jayanagar.

JP Nagar: A new bus stop has been provided opposite metro station near the 'C' entrance for passengers travelling from Banashankari towards Yelachenahalli. Another new bus stop has been provided below metro station near 'D' entrance for passengers travelling from Yelachenahalli towards Banashankari.

Konanakunte Cross: A new bus stop has been provided near 'A' entrance (pillar number 147) for passengers travelling from Doddakallasandra towards Yelachenahalli.

Another new bus stop has been provided near 'B' entrance (pillar number 148) for passengers travelling from Yelachenahalli towards Doddakallasandra.

Vajarahalli: A new bus stop has been provided below metro station near 'B' entrance for passengers travelling from Thalaghattapura towards Doddakallasandra.

Another new bus stop has been provided near the 'A' entrance for passengers travelling from Doddakallasandra towards Thalaghattapura.

Thalaghattapura: A new bus stop has been provided near 'B' entrance for passengers travelling from Silk Institute towards Vajarahalli. Another new bus stop has been provided below metro station near 'A' entrance for passengers travelling from Vajarahalli towards Silk Institute.

For all other metro stations, BMTC bus stops are already available within 100 metres, or new stops could not be provided due to space constraints, the BMRCL said.

For commuters travelling to Kempegowda International Airport, BMTC Vayu Vajra bus stops have been provided at all metro stations along the route.

Airport-bound passengers can now board or alight Vayu Vajra buses directly at metro stations.

BMTC bus runs over Manipur woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 20-year-old woman from Manipur was killed on the spot after a BMTC bus ran over her near the Tin Factory Junction on Friday morning.

The victim, Hanna Inaka, was riding pillion on a scooter near Tin Factory Junction around 9.30am, when a speeding BMTC bus knocked against the vehicle. Both Hanna and the rider Srikun Saba Inka fell off the vehicle. While Srikun escaped with minor injuries, Hanna came underneath the wheel of the bus, and was killed instantly, said police.

Hanna had been working at a spa in the city.

A case of death due to negligence has been registered by the Mahadevapura traffic police, who arrested the driver of the BMTC bus.

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Course Time 7.30 PM TO 8.30 PM
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Date- 16 TO 25 FEB. 2026
Email ID : training@idemi.org Website : www.idemi.org
Contents: Introduction to AI, Chat GPT, Gemini. Google, AI Image & Video Creator, Instagram & Facebook (Organic & Paid Marketing), Linkdin Professional Use, Google Business Profile Creation, Youtube & Earning, Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice B-SG-P-CCTVYARD-Thane Dtd: 02.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	1.SWR-Bengaluru-Division: Provision of CCTV coverage in yard area, mainline points and crossings at vulnerable station (i,e Banaswadi Malanur, Patchur, Somanayakkanpatti, Sivadi, Toppur, Karuvalli, Omalur, Krishnarajapuram, Whitefield, Baiyyappanahalli, Ramanagaram Nayandahalli, Hejjala, Yeliyur, Chikka Banawara, Sampige road, & Shantigrama) at Bengaluru Division. 2.SWR-Bengaluru Division: Provision of CCTV camera at 17 locations of RPF office (Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Tumakuru, Mandya, Dharmapuri, Bengaluru Cantt, Yelahanka, Hindupur, Sri sathya sai prashanthi Nilayam, Channasandra, Baiyyappanahalli, Krishnarajapuram, Krishnarajapuram Diesel Loco Shed , Whitefield, Devangonthi, Bangarapet & CIB/Bengaluru). 3. SWR-Mysuru Division: Provision of CCTV surveillance systems at yard main line crossing areas of Hassan, Arsikere, Kadur, Birur, Chikjajur, Davangere, Amaravathi colony, Harihar, Ranibennur, SMM Haveri, Bhadravati, Shivamogga town & Byadarahalli railway stations. 4. SWR-Hubballi Division: Provision of CCTV coverage of mainline points and crossings in yard area at vulnerable stations of 9 stations in phase-1 Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Londa, Gadag, Bagalkot, Vijaypura, Hosapete and Ballari stations of Hubballi division.	Rs. 13,41,85,030.33/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 27.02.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer /Project/ Bengaluru

PUB/879/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Railway Project (Electrification) department under section 67 and clause C under section 67(2) of the Electricity Supply Act-2003 has proposed to construct a new transmission line project and the same is hereby published in pursuance of the said Act. This publication is issued for the information of license holders, land owners and any other persons concerned.

Particulars of the scheme are as here under:

Work A: arranging power supply to an extent of 5 MVA on 110KV reference in favour of Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Project, South Western Railway, Bangalore, for their railway traction substations, proposed at Kadlimatti in Bagalkot district.

Self Execution work: Construction of 110KV single circuit line on DC towers with DRAKE ACSR conductor from existing 110/11 KV Achanur substation to proposed Railway traction substation at Kadlimatti for a distance of 4.168 km.

Salient features: To provide reliable and quality voltage supply and to meet the power supply requirement for running of Electric locos and Vande Bharath trains.

Area of Transmission line passing through villages or survey numbers.

1. **Hallur - survey nos.** 75/1A,75/2.73/1,73/2A,73/2B,73/3.71/1,71/2A,71/2B,71/2C,71/2D,72/1, 72/2, 72/3,70/1,70/2
2. **Achanur - survey nos.** 79/1+2/A,79/1+2/B,80/1,80/2,81,88/1,88/2,88/3,88/4,88/5,90/1,90/6, 90/7,97/4,97/5,96/1A,96/1B,96/2,96/4,96/5,96/3A/1,96/3A/2,96/3B, 103/1,103/2,103/3,103/4,103/5,103/9,108/1,109/1,112/1,112/3,107/2, 113/3, 114/4,117
3. **Mudapaljeevi-survey nos.** 15/10,11/1+5/A,11/2,11/3,11/6,11/7,14/1,14/2B/1,14/2B/2,14/3,9/1,8/A,7/3, 7/4,4/1,3/3,3/1A,3/1J

Estimated cost. 5,61,72,272.23 (Rupees Five Crore Sixty One Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two And Twenty Three Paisa Only)

Railways shall have and exercise all powers which The Telegraph authorities possess under part 3 of the Indian Telegraphic Act-1885 for implementation of the above said schemes. Any objections regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Project, South Western Railway, Bangalore within 30 days from the date of publication of notification.

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Projects, Bengaluru

PUB/874/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum No. 1 dated 05.02.2026

Corrigendum No. 1 dated 05.02.2026 against **Tender No. JBP-ELP-OHE-T-2025-03**, dated 16.01.2026 has been published. **The same is available on ireps website**. Tenderers may visit ireps website for details.

Dy. CEE/P/JBP

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SWR-SBCFirealarm-system Dated : 02.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approximate Value Rs.
SWR-Bengaluru Division-Provision of Fire Alarm system and Aspiration type systems at stations over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 1,98,02,125.00/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 12.00 hrs on 24.02.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/875/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/RE-II/MLG/01/2026, Dated: 04-02-2026. E -Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** EL-CON-MLG-09-2025-26-D-K; **Name of Work:** Engineering, Procurement & Construction of "Design, supply, erection & commissioning of tunnel ventilation, Electrical and mechanical system and 33KV/11KV sub-station, Fire Fighting System Equipments at Tunnel No. 1 in connection with Dimapur - Kohima new BG line project. (3.5 Km). **Tender Value :** ₹114,77,52,811.05/-; **Earnest Money :** ₹57,38,800/-; Date & time of **submission** of tender at **11:00** hrs. on **13-03-2026** and **opening** at **16:00** hrs. on **23-03-2026**. Physical submission of document listed in clause no. 2.11.2: **20-03-2026** upto **11:00** hours. For complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

AEE/CON/HQ, Maligaon
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SOLAPUR DIVISION

CCTV Works

DRM (C)'s Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work: **E-tender Notice No.:** SUR-C-WKS-CCTV-GDS-SHED. **Name of work:** Provision of CCTV facility in 10 goods sheds over Solapur division. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 14614457.59. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 223100.00, **Completion period of the work:** 6[six] Months. **Maintenance Period:** 12 [Twelve] Months. **Cost of Tender form:** Nil. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 02.03.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov. in:** 02.03.2026 after 15.30 Hrs. **Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in** Note: The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/ corrigendum issued for this tender website: **www.ireps.gov.in** EXP-07

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE

GEM/2026/B/7197204 Dated: 06.02.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem - 636005 for the following work:

S. No	Description	
1	**Name of the Work:** Transportation of bogie assembly and wheel sets by road between CW Depots of Salem Division and various workshops and CW Depots of Indian Railways for a period of Two years **(Custom Bid for Services).**	
2	Estimate Value	**₹ 3,54,14,052/-**
3	Tender Closing date and Time	**27.02.2026, 17.00.00 hrs.**
4	Tender Opening date and Time	**27.02.2026, 17.30.00 hrs.**
5	Web address	**https://www.gem.gov.in**

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM portal **https://www.gem.gov.in** on **06.02.2026** as **Custom Bid.**

The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal **"www.gem.gov.in".** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in"**

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in"**

Divisional Mechanical Engineer / EnHM & FRT / Salem - 636 005

e-Procurement Cell
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, Ranchi

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-41/2025-26

Date:-06.02.2026

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Proposed Construction of Jharkhand Bhawan at Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharastra	Rs. 138,97,07,000.00	24 (Twenty Four) Months
i	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	13.02.2026	
ii	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि/समय	24.02.2026 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	
iii	प्री बीड मिटिंग का स्थान	**e- Procurement Cell**, Room No 326 A, 3rd Floor, Building Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi	
iv	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय	16.03.2026 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	
v	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय	17.03.2026 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	
vi	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	**e- Procurement Cell**, Office of the Executive Engineer Special Works Division Building Construction Department Ranchi	
vii	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	8092415503	
viii	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	8092415503	

Note:- Cost of bidding document (Non Refundable) & Bid Security Shall be payable on online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Any Change can be on Website http://Jharkhandtenders. gov. in

Any Other information can be on Website http:// Jharkhandtenders.gov. in

Nodal Officer,
e-Procurement Cell,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Special Works Division
Building Construction Department,Ranchi .

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Thanksgiving

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Thanksgiving
Saint Claire's Prayer
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified & loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen, Ask St. Claire for three favours too impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for nine days, with a lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not publish on the ninth day. You request will be granted no matter how impossible it is
- J. Vijaya

Reality check: Several rly crossings in city lack basic safety measures

Most of them are unmanned, without signals, barricades

ASRA MAVAD & ABHINAYA M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Shampura Railway crossing sees regular traffic congestion due to narrow roads. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

The railway crossing in Kodigehalli has a functioning signalling system. But barricades are missing, leaving pedestrians and vehicles vulnerable to accidents. DH PHOTO/ABHINAYA M

The recent incident of a BMTC bus struck by a train while trying to reverse on a railway track in Sadaramangala near Kadugodi, brought to light some of the shortcomings at railway crossings across the city.

A major tragedy was averted in the said accident as there were no passengers in the bus. The conductor sustained some injuries. However, the railway crossing remains amongst the most hazardous ones in the city.

A reality check by *DH* at a few railway crossing reveals lack of basic facilities that are mandated at all such crossings.

This crossing, located near the Sadaramangala village, lacks essential safety measures, including security personnel, signals, and gates. It is a common practice among the villagers to cross the railway tracks on foot in order to save time. The crossing also sees mild to heavy vehicular traffic throughout the day.

Despite several complaints, the crossing has remained in the same condition, said locals.

"When we are crossing the road, it's crucial to know when the train is coming. We can only hear the sound of the train and its honking. But sometimes, we are too afraid to let our children go outside because they have no way of knowing when the train is approaching," said Chitra M, a resident of the village. With no proper barricades in place, the crossing provides easy access to children and animals.

At most crossings, the situation remains the same. In Hoodi, a crossing is located amidst a heavily populated area, posing a significant threat to both pedestrians and vehicle users. The crossing lacks basic safety measures such as a security guard, signals, and barricades, and has led to multiple accidents in the past.

Following a recent accident, authorities temporarily closed the crossing to vehicles, allowing only pedestrians to cross. Mubarak, a resident, shared his concerns. "This is the worst crossing I have ever seen. The need for a security guard, gates, and signals is critical. Only with these can we prevent accidents." He also pointed out that the lack of alternative routes forces people to depend on the crossing.

While the railway crossing in Kodigehalli has a functioning signalling system, barricades are missing, leaving pedestrians and vehicles vulnerable to accidents.

Traffic chaos

The crossings in Shampura have barricades. But the main railway crossing has become notorious for traffic jams due to poor management.

"This crossing acts as an access route for the people in Sultanpalya and surrounding areas and hence there is heavy traffic throughout the day. With there being no railway security or traffic personnel on the ground, a major fight breaks out at the crossing every day. People also try to pass through the barricades," said Abdul Majeed, a Shampura resident.

The situation remains the same at the crossing at Nagashettyhalli near Hebbal. Vehicles moving through narrow streets get stuck at crossing, as the path continues to narrow down, unable to accommodate the growing number of vehicles. Ongoing construction near the crossing in Yelahanka is adding to the traffic congestion. Additionally, it has also led to locals having to jump over the construction waste to get to the other side of the crossing.

128 railway crossings

As per the data provided by the South Western Railways, there are currently 128 railway crossings in Bengaluru, spread across 100 km. The SWR has come up with a plan to eliminate all of them, and convert them into ROBs and RUBs.

KARTHIK REDDY,
Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic)

"Railway crossings cause traffic congestion every time the they are closed. The railway department is working on converting these railway crossings to ROBs and RUBs. But apart from this, we have also identified 28 ROBs and RUBs that need widening.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

HCL Cyclothon: Priyank Kharge, Naveenraj Singh, Maninder Pal Singh, Sundar Mahalingam to take part, Cyclothon starting place: Tollgate, Nice Road, Hosakerehalli, from 6 am

Eeshwaramma Puraskar Sambhrama-2026: Pramoda Devi Wadiyar: Neeta Khanna, awardees: Mallamma Soolagithi, Asha S, Saroj Y Bakale: Sathya Sai Ashram, Sai Ramesh Hall, Brindavan, Kadugodi, Whitefield; 8.30 am

10th State Level Youth Literature and Culture Conference: President M R Upendra Kumar, Inauguration: L N Mukundaraj, 'Karnataka Ratna Puneeth Rajkumar Yuva Sahitya Datti, Kuvempu Sri Award' to be presented by: Manu Paidegar, award recipient: V Nisha Gopinath, Siddalingaswamy, Akkamahadevi Auditorium, Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Chamarajpet; 9 am

Valedictory of International Trade Fair: Shivrajsingh Chauhan, Shobha Karandlaje, N Chaluvarayaswamy, Dr C N Ashwathanarayana to take part, Tripuravasini Palace Grounds; 12 pm

CULTURAL

'Vaishnavanjali' Bharatanatya: presentation: Vaishnavi Acharya: Hema Prabhat, K P Putturaya, Vaijayanthi Kashi, Vanithakka, Gargi Panchangam, Krishnaraja Kutpadi: Sukriti Natyalaya: Prabhat Kala Sambhrama Hall, Balamandir Road, Hombegowdanagar; 5 pm

Anniversary celebrations: Ganapati Sachchidananda Swamiji, Datta Vijayananda Theertha Swamiji, N Someshwara, M Pushpavathi, Tejasvi Surya, Ravi Subramanya, Ashok, S G S Vagdevi Center, Third Main Road, Girinagar, Second Phase; 5 pm

Yogesh Master's 'Avalu', Chandasaab Kurakunda's 'Baidanahalli' books release: Chetana Tirthahalli, Akkai Padmashali, Mamata Sagar to take part, Rajmarga Sahitya Sanskriti, Green Path, Organic Restaurant, Opposite Mantri Mall, Malleswaram; 11 am

Vocal concert: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira Annual Spring Music Festival: Vocal concert by Sikkil Gurucharan. Charulatha Ramanujam on violin, H S Sudhindra on mridanga, Ranganatha Chakravarthy on ghata. 5.30 pm, Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K R Road.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly Clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.1°C
Minimum	16.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	36%
Sunset (Feb 8)	6:23 pm
Sunrise (Feb 9)	6:45 am
Moonrise	11:05 am
Moonset	10:17 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Heirs of deceased riding borrowed vehicle can't claim relief: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court has said that in accident claims where an accident victim has borrowed a vehicle, the legal heirs cannot maintain a claim under section 163-A of Motor Vehicles (MV) Act against the owner and insurer of the vehicle.

Justice K Manmadha Rao relied on the Apex Court judgement on the question while directing the insurance company to pay personal accident compensation of Rs 1 lakh, with 7.5% interest per annum.

The insurance company had challenged the compensation (relief) of Rs 4,24,505 by the Tribunal in Belagavi.

The accident had occurred on August 1, 2014, when Prakash Baburao Chigare, a resident of Shivajinagar in Belagavi, was returning from his work to his residence on a motorcycle.

It was stated an unknown vehicle hit his motorcycle knocking him down near Arun Talkies on Congress Road, Tilakwadi, Belagavi. He succumbed to the injuries on August 4, 2014.

The family members of Prakash Baburao claimed that he was earning Rs 40,000 per annum and was maintaining the entire family.

The insurance company contended that there was a violation of policy conditions, as the deceased was not holding a valid and effective driving licence at the time of accident. It was specifically contended by the insurance company that the deceased was not a third party, and he had borrowed the motorcycle, thereby stepping into the shoes of the owner. Therefore, the claim petition filed under Section 163-A against the insurer of the said vehicle was not maintainable.

The court noted that the issue raised by the insurance company was squarely covered by the decision by the Apex Court in the Ramkhiladi case. The top court had categorically held that though Section 163-A is based on the principle of no-fault liability, the deceased must necessarily be a third party vis-à-vis the insured vehicle.

Cardinal Poola Anthony elected CBCI president

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cardinal Poola Anthony, Metropolitan Archbishop of Hyderabad, was elected as the new president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) during its 37th general body meeting on Saturday.

Cardinal Poola Anthony was born on November 15, 1961, in Poluru in the Diocese of Kurnool. After completing his formation at the minor seminary in Nuzvid, he pursued priestly studies at Saint Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru. He was ordained a priest on February 20, 1992, and incardinated into the Diocese of Cuddapah.

He pursued higher studies in the USA, earning a master's degree in pastoral care and attending a theology course at Loyola University, Chicago, while offering pastoral ministry at Saint Genevieve Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago. From 2004 to 2008, he served as Director of the Christian Foundation for children and aging.

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TENDER NOTICE

REF: APS PRTC/Security Gd/2026-27 Dated: 7th Feb. 2026

1. Army Public School PRTC Bangalore invites quotations from the reputed agencies for Seven Security Guards per day, for the academic year 2026-27.
2. Tender form will be available at school office from 09 Feb 2026 between 0900 to 1200 hrs against payment of tender fee of Rs 200/- through DD in favour of Army Public School, PRTC, Bangalore.
3. Bids in a sealed envelope must be dropped in the tender box kept at school office (Army Public School, PRTC Bangalore) on or before 18 Feb 2026, 1200 hrs. Tenders will be opened at APS, PRTC Bangalore on 19th Feb 2026 at 1100 hrs..
4. In case of any queries or clarifications, please feel free to contact the undersigned on 080 23433340.

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Director Prem moves chamber against producer R S Srinivas

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prem, director of hit films like 'Jogi' and 'Excuse Me', has accused producer R S Srinivas of defaming him and using derogatory language against him.

He has filed a complaint with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) in this regard.

The complaint copy accessed by *DH* reads: "In 2004, producer Srinivas approached me to direct a film by giving an amount advance of Rs 9 lakh (Rs 5 lakh in cash and rest in cheque). After this, I set up an office for him, formed a team and started working on the pre-production of the film. However, when I contacted him again, I did not receive any response. He wasted my time and that of my team".

Prem said the producer did not pay for any of the expenses and he (Prem) had spent close to Rs 20 lakh.

When Srinivas contacted him about a year later, asking for his money back, Prem said he gave back Rs 5 lakh believing that the producer was in a financial distress.

Prem said at a press meet for the film 'Cottonpete' last week, produced by Srinivas, the latter lashed out at the director (Prem), alleging he had taken money from him with the promise of directing a movie.

"At the press meet, Srinivas used abusive language which hurt my wife and my mother. I request the film chamber to take action," the complaint reads.

On the occasion, Srinivas allegedly insulted and used derogatory language against other producers.

Female elephant electrocuted

MYSURU, DHNS: A 30-year-old female elephant died was electrocuted as it came in contact with a galvanised iron wire fence around a maize farm at Doddaharave, under Bylakuppe Grama Panchayat limits in Periyapatna taluk.

The incident is said to have occurred on Friday night. The village is on the fringes of Doddaharave Reserve Forest under Hunsur wildlife division in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

After an autopsy on the spot, the elephant was cremated.

Three more govt medical colleges proposed in state

YADGIR, DHNS: The state government has submitted a proposal for setting up three new medical colleges and to add 600 more MBBS seats in Karnataka, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil has said.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, the minister said that it has been proposed to set up new medical colleges at Bagalkot, Ramanagar and Kanakapura. He said that 400-bed Jayadeva hospital will be inaugurated in Hubballi in August this year. This year's budget will propose to set up another two-three Jayadeva hospitals in the state, he added.

Buses crowded by women due to Shakti scheme: Deshpande

DANDELI (U-K DIST), DHNS: Congress MLA from Haliyal R V Deshpande has said that women are crowding government buses on account of the Shakti scheme.

Speaking at an event here on Saturday, he said, "Buses are crowded with women and men are not getting seats".

He said that Dandeli-Alnavar train service resumed on account of the efforts of Union Minister V Somanna.

7k-km bullet train corridors part of Viksit Bharat roadmap: Rly min

Mumbai–Ahmedabad corridor a major learning curve: Vaishnaw

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that the two bullet train corridors for Bengaluru—Chennai and Bengaluru–Hyderabad, announced in the budget, would connect the three largest economies of south India and create a "high-speed diamond" across the region.

"You can have breakfast at MTR in Bengaluru, lunch at Saravana Bhavan and return to have Mysuru Pak," said Vaishnaw.

The Bengaluru–Chennai bullet train will reduce travel time to 73 minutes, while the Bengaluru–Hyderabad corridor will take about two hours.

Vaishnaw said Karnataka is one of only three states to receive two bullet train projects, the others being Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

In UP, bullet train corridors will connect Delhi–Varanasi and Varanasi–Siliguri via Patna, while Maharashtra will get Mumbai–Ahmedabad and Mumbai–Pune–Hyderabad corridors.

Recalling Japan's Tokyo–Osaka bullet train, Vaishnaw said high-speed rail had effectively merged multiple cities into a single economic geography.

"You can live in one city and work in another," he said.

He said the Mumbai–Ahmedabad corridor, India's first bullet train project, involved complex engineering challenges at speeds of 350 kmph, including vibration control, stability and pressure management due to the vacuum created around high-speed trains.

"That project was a major learning curve for our engineers and industry," he said, adding that India was now ready for the second phase, with seven high-speed rail projects approved.

India plans to build 7,000 km of bullet train corridors as part of the Viksit Bharat roadmap.

Of this, 4,000 km have already been announced. Vaishnaw said the Karnataka BJP had proposed a Pune–Bengaluru bullet train corridor, which will be examined.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses a press meet at BJP office in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

ASHWINI VAISHNAW
Union Railway Minister

"You can have breakfast at MTR in Bengaluru, lunch at Saravana Bhavan and return to have Mysuru Pak.

On conventional rail infrastructure, Vaishnaw said Karnataka had been allocated Rs 7,748 crore in the current railway budget—nine times higher than the Rs 800 crore allocated during the UPA period.

The total railway investment in the state stands at Rs 52,950 crore, covering track creation, station redevelopment, safety upgrades and Bengaluru suburban rail project.

Under Amrit Bharat station scheme, 61 stations in Karnataka were being redeveloped, with nine already completed, at a cost of Rs 2,110 crore.

Twelve pairs of Vande Bharat trains are currently operating in the state.

Vaishnaw said the Bengaluru–Mangaluru Vande Bharat service will begin soon, with electrification and safety certification of the Hassan–Mangaluru stretch nearing completion.

The coastal Karnataka corridor up to Karwar was fully covered, the Mysuru and Hubballi region were operational, while work on the Kalaburagi stretch would be taken up next, he added.

Vaishnaw terms Siddu's budget criticism 'myopic'

Out of total tax kitty, majority comes back to states, he says

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday dismissed the Karnataka government's claim that the state was short-changed in tax devolution, asserting that a majority of central taxes ultimately flow back to the states under a constitutionally mandated framework.

Addressing the media, Vaishnaw said the state's share of Rs 63,000 crore from tax devolution was only one component of central support and that large investments in airport connectivity, national highways, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, metro projects, railways, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, and welfare schemes such as PM Garib Kalyan Yojana were "over and above" this amount.

Explaining the GST structure, Vaishnaw said states retained 50% of the total GST collection and received 41% of the Centre's share of taxes.

"Out of the total tax kitty, the majority comes back to the states. This structure was created with the consensus of all states through GST council, which includes finance ministers of all states. People should not be misled," he said.

Responding to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's criticism that the Union Budget resembled a "corporation budget" and that allocations to centrally sponsored schemes had been cut, Vaishnaw said such comments reflected short-term thinking.

"Leaders who think only in one-year cycles will always call it a corporation budget," he said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Had previous Congress governments taken similar long-term decisions since 1947, the country's economic trajectory would have been vastly different, he said, citing the missed opportunity to develop the semiconductor industry decades ago.

AI disruption in IT: Minister calls for accelerating upskilling & reskilling

Proposes roadmap for 2-nanometre chip that 'should be fabbed in India'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) progresses, there is a major change coming in the entire software industry - both disruption and opportunity.

This is the time when the industry, academia and government should fully synchronise and make sure that students and employees undergo upskilling and reskilling, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Speaking at the Qualcomm Technologies event in Bengaluru, Vaishnaw said he had requested the IT industry to come up with the course curriculum, the way they did in the semiconductor industry.

He said the government will be willing to put in lot of efforts to make sure that students get the right skills and the talent (existing workforce) gets right opportunity to upskill.

The minister's call for accelerating upskilling comes at a time when the IT industry is witnessing major disruptions due to AI.

A couple of days ago, AI startup Anthropic's new AI tool raised concerns among analysts and they said there is more pain ahead for Indian IT.

Qualcomm Technologies on Saturday announced the successful tape-out of its 2-nanometre (nm) semiconductor design, and Vaishnaw said the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will focus on advanced manufacturing with a roadmap to achieve a 2-nanometre chip that "should also be fabbed in India".

By 2035, India aims to be among the top semiconductor nations globally. In 2021, the India Semiconductor Mission 1.0 was announced. As of December 2025, ten projects with a total investment of Rs 1.6 lakh crore have been approved across 6 states.

These include silicon fabrication units, silicon carbide fabs, advanced and memory packaging facilities, and specialised assembly and testing infrastructure.

The minister said, "We will soon have the Semicon 2.0 policy, and focus will be on designing as proposed priority, equipment and materials as next priority, followed by talent to a much deeper level".

"Getting more fabs and ATMP (assembly, test, marking and packaging) units will also be part of the work, and making sure that our path to 7-nanometre, from the current 28-nanometre, will be part of the policy, which should be finally completed within next few months, and it will be another great chapter in the journey," he said.

He said the country had set a target of training 85,000 semiconductor engineers over 10 years, but has already trained about 67,000 engineers. This was due to the programmes spanning 315 universities and colleges.

Over Rs 10,300 crore has been allocated over five years for IndiaAI Mission with 38,000 GPUs (graphics processing units) deployed.

Vaishnaw said that very soon, "we should be adding about 50,000 more GPUs".

Talking about data centres, the minister said they are going to be a major growth journey in the coming years.

"So far, we have committed investments of $70 billion, and if we add the other announcements, it's about $90 billion. I expect that in the coming months, this number will go beyond $200 billion," he said.

"The entire world is looking at us with hope because of the kind of talent that we have in our country. We are a country which respects IP (intellectual property), and believes in co-creating and co-developing," he added.

Patil meets rail minister, seeks B'luru-Mumbai bullet train

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil on Saturday submitted representations to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, seeking approval for a Vande Bharat sleeper train from Bengaluru to Vijayapura, a high-speed rail (bullet train) corridor between Bengaluru and Mumbai, and a daily special train on Bengaluru–Vijayapura route.

M B Patil

After launching Zetwerk Electronics' manufacturing excellence facility at the hi-tech hardware park near the Bengaluru airport, Patil met Vaishnaw at the venue and handed over the representations. The railway minister assured him that the proposals would be examined positively, according to a statement from Patil's office.

He asked for extending the proposed Mumbai-Pune high-speed rail corridor up to Bengaluru. Vaishnaw responded positively to this request as well, the statement said.

Further, Patil pointed out that the distance between Bengaluru and Vijayapura was around 530 km and that the current train journey takes 15-16 hours, which could be reduced to about 10 hours.

To achieve this, he suggested limiting halts between Bengaluru and Hubballi, and operating trains via Hubballi and Gadag bypasses.

He sought the introduction of a Vande Bharat train on this route and the introduction of a daily special train service.

'Railway projects stalled due to non-cooperation of state govt'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Railways and Water Resources V Somanna said on Saturday that many key railway projects have failed to take-off due to lack of cooperation and withdrawal of approvals by the state government.

V Somanna

Speaking to reporters here, Somanna said, "Many railway projects in the state have been pending since decades and their costs have escalated. Congress should not resort to politics when it comes to implementing development projects. The state should take cue from north eastern states and Jharkhand in taking initiatives to implement the central projects."

"Lands for the proposed Belagavi-Dharwad direct railway line have been acquired till Mummigatti near Dharwad. The project requires about 55 acres more and the Dharwad district administration is struggling to get the same," he said and listed out the pending railway projects in the state, including the Shivamogga-Harihar-Ranebennur rail line.

"The Centre has been giving environmental clearances for the drinking water and irrigation projects across the country in a phased manner, but the Karnataka government has not been showing any interest in getting clearance for the Mahadayi project," Somanna charged.

Cyber Command finds Rs 100 cr transactions in mule accounts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The officials from the Karnataka Cyber Command, who analysed over 100 of the 42,000 mule accounts so far, found transactions of over Rs 100 crore.

These 42,000 mule accounts were identified after the Cyber Command Centre (CCC) headed by Director General of Police (DGP) Pronab Mohanty launched raids on February 5 to identify and dismantle mule account networks in different parts of the state, used to launder proceeds of cybercrimes.

Another suspect was also arrested, taking the total number of suspects arrested during the raids to 14. On Saturday, Mohanty held a press briefing regarding the raids and confirmed the developments.

"Among the 14, investigators found that one suspect arrested in Shivamogga had 19 mule accounts, involving a money transfer of Rs 11 crore. There are 96 cases registered on the NCRP in this regard, in which a loss of around Rs 55 crore was found. From the suspects, police also seized 18 passbooks, 25 ATM cards, seven cheque books, two mobile phones, and two QR codes," sources said, adding that the investigators are also probing the possible role of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and action will be initiated based on the findings.

CHISELLING PERFECTION

Sculptors take part in a camp organised as part of Hampi Utsav, near Virupaksha temple in Hampi on Saturday. The Utsav is scheduled to begin on February 13. DH PHOTO/LAVA K

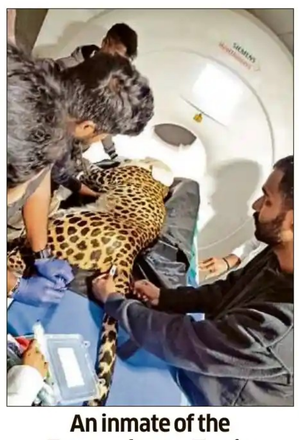
Leopard undergoes MRI scan in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

A 15-year-old leopard from the Tyavarekoppa Zoo in Shivamogga underwent an MRI scan at a private hospital in the city on Friday.

The authorities at the zoo grew anxious when the big cat stopped moving about in its enclosure and suspected that it could be owing to a problem either in the brain or the spinal cord.

Veterinary Officer Murali Manohar said, "We found that there was no movement in all four of its legs. The leopard was taken to a private hospital in Shivamogga city on Friday, where it underwent an MRI scan. The report confirmed that the problem lay in the spinal cord. The leopard's condition is critical and is being treated at the zoo. The leopard will also undergo physiotherapy sessions so it can recover its movement."



An inmate of the Tyavarekoppa Zoo in Shivamogga, the 15-year-old leopard underwent an MRI scan at a private hospital. The test revealed a problem in the big cat's spinal cord.

Attributing the problem to its advanced years, Manohar was quick to point out that the leopard's other sense organs – eyes and nose, for instance – were functioning.

The leopard was brought to the hospital by Zoo Director K V Amarakshara, along with Manohar.

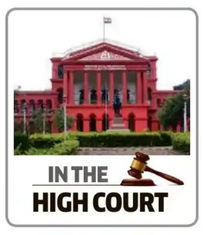
The leopard was sedated for the MRI scan. The staff at the hospital were only too happy to co-operate with the personnel from the zoo for the procedure.

HC imposes cost on Wipro over prolonged feud with ex-staffer

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on Wipro Enterprises Private Limited for compelling one of its former employees to undergo prolonged litigation to secure an amount contractually promised.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order, dismissing the appeal filed by the company challenging the judgement and decree by Additional City Civil and Session, Bengaluru, holding that its former employee Ratnesh Pandey is entitled to ex-gratia lump sum amount.



A resident of Faridabad, Haryana, Pandey had resigned on Aug 6, 2017, after serving for 12 years. On Sept 18, 2017, while accepting resignation, the firm offered an ex-gratia lump sum amount of Rs 6,32,000. The letter said the amount would be payable subject to the condition that Ratnesh would not join competing firms - Philips India Limited or Bajaj Electricals Ltd – for 18 months from date of cessation of employment.

Ratnesh instituted a suit for recovery when the company failed to release ex-gratia amount. On July 23, 2024, the city court ruled in favour of Pandey. Challenging this, the company contended that the cessation letter of Sept 18, 2017, was revoked under sec 6(2) of Indian Contract Act, for want of acceptance from Pandey. On the other hand, Pandey said the firm never alleged breach of contract before the civil court.

After perusing statute and letter issued by Wipro, the judge said conditions are acts to be performed over a period and not promises requiring contemporaneous communication of acceptance.

"The plaintiff (Pandey), by adhering to stipulated conditions throughout non-solicitation period, discharged contractual obligations in both letter and spirit. In such circumstances, insistence on formal communication of acceptance is wholly misconceived. The present case squarely falls within category contemplated under Sec 8 of Act, wherein performance of conditions constitutes valid acceptance. Consequently, non-communication of acceptance has no bearing on plaintiff's entitlement to ex-gratia amount," the judge said.

The court said, "The defendant company, being a corporate entity, was expected to act fairly and responsibly and not compel plaintiff to undergo prolonged litigation to secure amount contractually promised. This court is therefore of the view that the stand taken by defendant-company in written statement constitutes abuse of process of law & warrants imposition of exemplary costs".

LAST FOREVER OR LOST FOREVER? Encroachment big hurdle in excavating monuments

Lakkundi and beyond: Heritage beneath beckons

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

As researchers begin removing fine dust from relics at the Lakkundi excavation site in Gadag district, fresh hope has emerged of connecting multiple dots in the region's long history.

Earlier excavations at Lakkundi — a prominent religious and administrative centre under Kalyani Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, Kalachuris and Vijayanagara rulers — had unearthed thousands of artefacts, establishing that Lakkundi is not a human habitation of just a few centuries, but dates back to the Neolithic period, several thousand years ago.

Archaeologists say the fresh excavation is expected to yield inscriptions, monuments, sculptures and ornaments linked to Karnataka's medieval history, while also helping understand Lakkundi's rich heritage and the cultural and social evolution of human habitation in the region.

The research may explain how Lokkigundi, a village elaborately described in 11th- and 12th-century inscriptions across south India as a coin-minting centre, came to be known as Lakkundi.

Since the state department of archaeology, museums and heritage (DAMH) began excavation on January 16 at a 10x10 metre site between Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple and Siddarabhavi, researchers have stumbled upon over 50 archaeologically important relics, including a Shiva linga, stone columns, coins, bones and precious stones like sapphires and pearls.

Lakkundi was a confluence of Vaishnava, Shaiva and Jain beliefs, with multiple temples dedicated to these traditions.

Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority commissioner Sharanu Gogeri says Lakkundi was once known as the land of 101 temples and wells.

> Currently, we are excavating at Lakkundi and Rajaghatta. We also have a proposal to take up excavation at Hampi. There are no restrictions on excavation, and the department identifies locations based on importance and potential findings
>
> **A Devaraj**
> Commissioner, department of archaeology, museums and heritage

"While many of these temples are buried under present-day settlements, 60–70 are still visible. They need to be excavated and preserved," he says.

Over the years, DAMH officials and researchers have recovered more than 1,050 artefacts from residential areas, which they wish to display in an open air museum.

Deccan Heritage Foundation (DHF), a non-profit organization which has restored multiple historical sites in Deccan Plateau, has shown interest in conserving these artefacts in an open museum.

Sources associated with the excavation say many monuments, idols and historically important artefacts have become part of house foundations or walls.

As the government issues notices to several families to vacate such properties, silent resistance is brewing. Sharanayya Chowkimutt is one such resident who has received a notice to vacate his ancestral house, an extension of the Mahanteshwara temple.

"My last five generations have lived in this house. Now, we have received a notice to vacate. We will not oppose the government and are willing to move out if alternative land and housing are provided," he says.

While most residents of Lakkundi are cooperating for the overall development of the historic site, they are demanding alternative arrangements — a difficult task given that the government has been unable to relocate families encroaching multiple temples in Aihole for years.

Parts of a temple unearthed in an earlier excavation are displayed at Lakkundi in Gadag district.

"As of now, there is no proposal before us to relocate families. A decision has to be taken at the government level," Gogeri says, adding that a detailed project report is being prepared for conservation of 25 newly proposed sites at an estimated cost of Rs 1.86 crore.

Without clearing modern-day housing, restoring Lakkundi's full glory will be difficult.

The renewed excavation at Lakkundi has drawn attention to several other historical and pre-historic sites in the state awaiting exploration. While Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal have received international recognition for their architectural marvels, residents say vast unexplored history still awaits researchers' attention.

Activist Istaling Sirsi says treasure hunters continue to dig at unprotected sites, damaging monuments or making away with artefacts.

"The Badami–Aihole–Pattadakal trinity is considered the cradle of Hindu rock architecture, yet these sites remain unprotected. Further excavation can reveal missing historical insights," he says.

For the past two years, Chalukya Development Authority officials have been unable to relocate 82 families from Aihole. Though 13 acres of land has been identified and Rs 8 crore allocated, residents are unwilling to move there as the land is barren and "unfit for human settlement". More than 100 temples and Chalukya-era monuments remain encroached.

Another site needing urgent conservation is Sirival village in Yadgir's Shahapur taluk. "Situated on the banks of Bhima river, this Rashtrakuta-period site is neglected. Locals are using monuments for defecation and other purposes. It needs immediate restoration," says Srikumar M Menon, researcher at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

Hunasagi, also in Yadgir district, has been crying for government attention to conserve pre-historic sites that are being replaced by paddy fields under irrigation projects.

Shobha R, assistant professor in the department of studies in ancient history and archaeology in the University of Mysore, says irrigation over the past 150 years has adversely impacted several archaeological sites in old Mysuru region.

"Hemmige near T Narsipur is one such site that lost most of its archaeological remains due to agricultural expansion. Only 10% of historically important locations survive in T Narsipur. Talakadu remains the only promising site in the Mysuru region that needs further exploration," she says.

Along with Lakkundi, the government has given green signal for excavation at Rajaghatta (near Doddaballapur in Bengaluru rural district), one of south India's important Buddhist sites.

She says excavation work is often assigned to DAMH, which lacks adequate staff. "The government should entrust universities with the task of undertaking research by providing required permissions and funds," she says.

MSIL goes digital with chits, eyes Rs 5,000-cr turnover

Govt mulls military canteen-like stores for staff

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday launched a dedicated software and mobile application for the state-owned Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) chit fund operations, in a major digital push to ensure transparency and prevent financial fraud.

Speaking at the launch, the chief minister highlighted the security of government-backed schemes. "Since MSIL is a state institution, there is no room for the kind of fraud often seen in private chit funds. Our goal is to scale the annual business turnover from the current Rs 500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore within five years," he said.

Drawing a comparison with Kerala's state-run financial models, which boast over 45 lakh customers and multi-crore turnovers, the chief minister noted that MSIL has already appointed a former managing director from Kerala's institution as a consultant to replicate that success.

Expansion to taluks

Industries Minister M B Patil announced that MSIL will expand its footprint from 27 branches to every district and taluk centre, with a specific focus on rural areas and women's savings. "We aim to offer returns higher than those available in traditional banks," Patil stated.

To drive this growth, the government plans to appoint 10,000 agents, including 'Sakhis' from women's self-help groups, hotel owners, and retail grocers. The new digital ecosystem allows participants to pay installments via UPI and participate in bidding online, removing physical barriers to entry.

Canteens for govt staff

In a move to benefit state employees, the government is also mulling opening MSIL stores modeled after Army canteens. "The proposal involves providing essential goods at subsidised rates to nearly 20 lakh families of government employees. A feasibility study is currently underway," Patil added.

MSIL Chairman Puttaranga Shetty highlighted that the organisation recorded a turnover of Rs 3,882 crore in 2024-25, with a profit of over Rs 122 crore.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"Since MSIL is a state institution, there is no room for the kind of fraud often seen in private chit funds. Our goal is to scale the annual business turnover from the current Rs 500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore within five years.

No wolf litter this season as leopards occupy sanctuary

Wolf, from Jacket Page 2

"Our staff haven't sighted a single wolf pack within the sanctuary this breeding season. There have been stray reports of wolf packs outside the sanctuary," said Gangavathi RFO Chaitra M. One of the main reasons for wolves not utilising their regular den, according to her, is the presence of leopards. While forest officials do not know the number of leopards in the sanctuary, guards and watchers have sighted at least two leopards near the den and expect at least 3-4 adult leopards to be prowling within the sanctuary.

"Last year, male and female wolves had chased a sub-adult leopard and protected their den. But this year, there are at least two adult leopards that have occupied the den, so I presume the wolves haven't risked littering at their usual place," said a source in the department.

An adult leopard has the potential to hunt wolves, and experts have recorded incidents where wolves abandon their natural habitat once leopards mark those areas as their territory. Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Ranebennur Blackbuck Sanctuary and Gudekote Bear Sanctuary are some examples of leopards replacing wolves as top predators.

Hosapete-based wildlife expert Samad Kottur said wolves prefer slightly human-disturbed areas. "The strict protection of dry scrub-forest and semi grassland habitat leads to regeneration of the forest, turning it into a dense forest. When forest regenerates into dense forest, wolves make way to leopards."

He said each habitat requires a specific scientific study and the department cannot use a similar yardstick of conservation by planting trees in every habitat. "The department should have conducted a long-term study on the habitat, radio-tagged wolves, understood the species' use of the landscape and then taken conservation measures," he said.

Deccan Conservation Foundation founder-president Indrajeet Ghorpade says mismanagement of the forest department has led to wolves moving out of the only dedicated sanctuary for them. "The wolves might have deserted their traditional den and moved to the periphery of the forest, where they are more vulnerable," he says.

BJP accuses Congress of appeasement for waiving loan interest for minorities

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior BJP leaders on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Siddaramaiah government, accusing it of indulging in appeasement politics by selectively waiving interest on loans availed by minorities while ignoring farmers, backward classes and other marginalised sections.

The state Cabinet recently approved a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to waive interest on loans provided by the Minority Development Corporation for the years 2013-14 to 2018-19, to address pending recoveries of Rs 714 crore from loans originally amounting to Rs 981 crore.

BJP MLC C T Ravi questioned the chief minister's "selective" interest waiver policy. "Why similar relief has not been extended to beneficiaries of the Ambedkar Development Corporation, Valmiki Corporation and other backward class corporations. Is appeasing just one community your idea of secularism?," he asked. Former chief minister and Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai alleged that the state government had consistently pursued vote-bank politics instead of addressing widespread economic distress.

Speaking to the media in Gadag, Bommai said interest on loans should have been waived for all farmers, the poor and backward classes, pointing out that farmer suicides were rising and compensation and insurance coverage were inadequate.

"Nearly 80% of people are in distress, yet the government is following anti-people policies," he alleged.

India, US reach trade deal; farmers safe: Goyal

Trade deal, from Jacket Page 2

While the Modi government celebrated the deal saying it would open new opportunities for Indian farmers, artisans, and manufacturers, trade experts struck a cautionary note.

"India's interim trade deal with the United States offers some relief on tariffs, but a closer reading suggests an uneven exchange," said Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava.

"Washington has relaxed punitive reciprocal tariffs — cutting them from 50% to 18% on about 55% of Indian exports — without reducing its MFN tariffs at all. In return, India has agreed to reduce or eliminate MFN tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of agricultural products, including fruits, soybean oil, wine and spirits—sectors that are politically sensitive and likely to hurt Indian farmers," Srivastava noted.

Taken together, while the US has eased tariffs, it has secured far-reaching commitments from India on agriculture, regulation, digital policy, security alignment, and large-scale purchasing — concessions that go well beyond trade, he added.

"It is important to understand that India has a $41 billion export surplus in trade with the US. This may come down as we import more energy, defense and aviation-related goods and high technology stuff from the US," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India Chairman Pankaj Chadha the US-India joint statement has boosted the confidence of the Indian engineering sector.

"A deeper trade partnership with the US bodes well for both sides. Once an interim deal is signed and a comprehensive agreement follows, the Indian engineering sector could see much stronger export growth. It will significantly contribute towards achieving the engineering exports target of US$250 billion by 2030," Chadha said.

Govt to inject more value to Kamalapur red bananas

Red banana, from Jacket Page 2

Scientists claim the production ecosystem of red bananas is currently under stress due to non-availability of quality planting material, severe diseases, pest pressure and unstable yields, resulting in underutilisation of its full economic and biomedical potential.

This has resulted in yield fluctuations, poor crop uniformity and reduced plantation longevity. The absence of organised systems for value addition and biomedical utilisation of red banana biomass has prompted the scientists to draw a strategy for integrated disease and yield enhancement.

"We have established a tissue culture lab and implemented bio-hardening technology for Kamalapur red banana and this initiative integrates agriculture, biotechnology, medical biomolecule development and value addition. This also intends to enhance the farmer income, and sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, apart from bio-economy, start-up ecosystem development, banana crop protection and global market positioning," said Dr Saravanan Ravi, senior manager of agri and food technology at the Bengaluru Bioinnovation Centre established by the IT-BT department.

Rs 200 per dozen

The Kamalapur red banana is grown only in Rajnal, Navanihal and Okali villages in the district and is sold only in one or two places around the Kamalapur bus stand, located between Kalaburagi and Bidar.

Its price varies from Rs 200 to Rs 250 per dozen against Rs 40 per dozen for normal bananas. The red banana plant grows 12-15 feet tall and around 800 saplings can be planted in one acre. Its crop duration is around 18 months against one year for normal bananas.

The farmers are selling the produce on their own on the roadside to avoid middlemen.

"The number of farmers engaged in the cultivation of red bananas has reduced considerably due to the high cost of production and less profit. The soil and weather conditions of Kamalapur are most suitable for cultivation of these bananas. It requires a specific, nutrient-rich cultivation process. Only a few people who know about its health benefits prefer to buy the produce," Ashok Sugur, a Kamalapur red banana grower, said.

Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge, said the government is exploring ways to promote the red banana as a super food and enhance its other uses.

He also said the agricultural accelerator programme adopted for GI-tagged tur crop will also be extended to the red banana.

"We will hold discussions with various institutions to make multiple use of red bananas once the state Budget session is over. We will try to enhance the nutrition and protein values of bananas by utilising every aspect, including its roots, shoots and leaves to ensure that farmers get more bang for their buck," the minister said.

BJP leaders claim Centre has put Metro fare hike on hold

Metro fare, from Jacket Page 2

However, sources with knowledge of the matter told *DH* that no official communication had been received from the government on putting the hike on hold.

"The move is fraught with risks. The FFC's recommendations are binding on the BMRCL. If the Centre asks for withholding the hike, it would open a Pandora's box. The Centre may have to do the same for metro systems in other cities," the sources said.

On Friday, the chief minister said he had formally taken up the issue with the Union government, urging it to reconsider the hike. He had also sought reconstitution of the FFC and asked that mechanisms be explored to rationalise the fares, especially for daily commuters, students and low-income groups, while examining policy options that balance financial sustainability with social equity.

Under Section 37, the FFC's recommendations are binding on the metro administration and must be implemented. Neither the state nor the BMRCL has the legal authority to override or disregard these recommendations, he had stressed.

Didn't sign any file on hike: Shivakumar

Speaking to reporters in Mangaluru and Bengaluru on separate occasions on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar dismissed suggestions that the state was responsible for the fare hike.

"You can hold me responsible if I had signed any file relating to the hike. No file on the hike came to me. I will discuss it with BMRCL officials on Monday. We don't want to trouble the common people. I will review the financial situation," he stated.

According to sources in the know, the Centre cannot revisit the fare hike but only reconstitute the FFC.

And fares could be tweaked only if the state agrees to provide Rs 400 crore per year as additional Shadow Cash Support (SCS) for cash loss reimbursement and interest-free sub-debt towards loan repayments.

DCM D K Shivakumar

The Centre, despite being an equal partner in Namma Metro, provides no such support. Without annual fare revision, the BMRCL's net loss would touch Rs 577 crore by 2029-30.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Feb 08: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30	15.6	00
Bidar	29	13.5	00
Vijayapura	30	14.5	00
Dharwad	30.2	13.5	00
Haveri	31.8	15	00
Kalaburagi	33.1	18.8	00
Raichur	31	15.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	36.5	21.6	00
Karwar	37.8	20.8	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.9	21.7	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29.5	16.3	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.9	16.4	00
Davangere	31	13	00
Hassan	31.1	12.8	00
Mysuru	31.2	16.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.4	9.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	24.8	11.8	00
Kolkata	26.4	14.2	00
Mumbai	35.1	19.7	00
Chennai	30.8	20.9	00
Pune	30.3	13.3	00
Hyderabad	30.4	17	00
Th'puram	32.8	23.7	00

SHRINE SOLUTION Pro bono donor-funded initiative eases crowding at hilltop temple

From chaos to calm: Inside Tirumala's AI command centre

S N V SUDHIR
TIRUMALA, DHNS

Two weeks ago, a jeep driver harassed a pilgrim from Uttar Pradesh on the winding climb to Tirumala's hilltop shrine in Andhra Pradesh. The devotee, shaken but determined, reached the shrine and filed a police complaint with just the last four digits of the vehicle's number plate.

Amid thousands of cars going to the temple, authorities traced the driver and vehicle in under 45 minutes. Justice was served swiftly and silently, thanks to a new initiative that watches over every corner of the sacred hill.

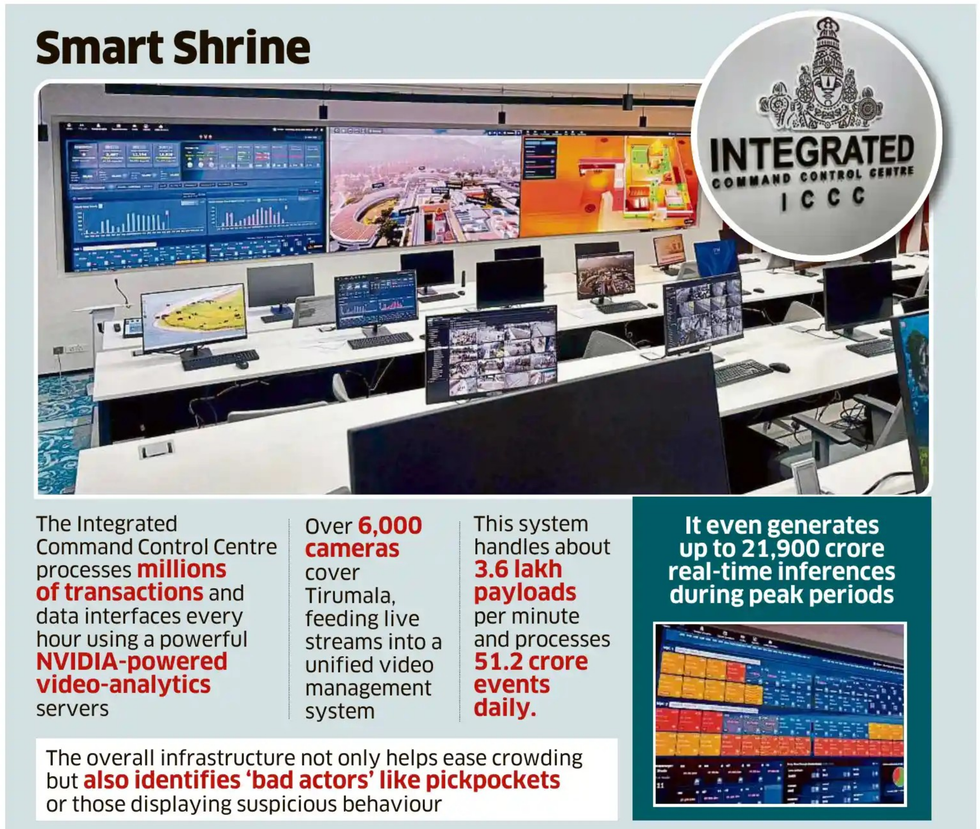
The Tirumala's Sri Venkateswara Temple, one of the richest and most revered Hindu shrines in the world, draws 70,000-80,000 pilgrims every day, with numbers often crossing 1 lakh on festivals and special days. Securing a darshan ticket is considered a prized spiritual opportunity.

Yet until recently, the experience was often defined by long queues, fatigue, and the ever-present risk of overcrowding.

Now, the average darshan time on a packed day has dropped from 26 hours to about 12-13 hours, and on normal days, devotees can complete darshan in under two hours, with far less jostling and more peace.

This transformation is powered by the newly opened AI-enabled Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the board that manages the temple complex's affairs.

TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdhary told *DH*: "We want to provide a great spiritual experience, with quick darshan and a peaceful glimpse of the Lord without much jostling. This ICCC has come as a boon."


Smart Shrine
INTEGRATED
COMMAND CONTROL CENTRE
ICCC
The Integrated Command Control Centre processes millions of transactions and data interfaces every hour using a powerful NVIDIA-powered video-analytics servers
Over 6,000 cameras cover Tirumala, feeding live streams into a unified video management system
This system handles about 3.6 lakh payloads per minute and processes 51.2 crore events daily.
It even generates up to 21,900 crore real-time inferences during peak periods
The overall infrastructure not only helps ease crowding but also identifies 'bad actors' like pickpockets or those displaying suspicious behaviour

Donor funded

Housed in a sleek, compact hub built in just 16 days through a pro bono donor-funded initiative by non-resident Indians, the ICCC processes millions of transactions and data interfaces every hour using powerful NVIDIA-powered video analytics servers.

Over 6,000 cameras — around 500 of them in sensitive zones — blanket the roughly four square kilometres over which Tirumala is spread. They feed live streams into a unified video management system (VMS).

This system handles about 3.6 lakh payloads per minute, processes 51.2 crore events daily, and generates up to 21,900 crore real-time inferences during peak periods, like the recent Vaikuntha Ekadasi, when around 11 lakh pilgrims visited over 11-12 days.

How it works

At the heart of the operation are the Vaikuntham Queue Complexes I and II — multi-level, semi-circular structures designed to manage the flow of devotees with military precision.

Queue Complex-I, the older facility, caters to Arjita Seva and Special Darshan (paid darshan) pilgrims, while Queue Complex-II handles Sarvadarsanam (free darshan).

Both complexes have over 60 compartments, each holding about 450 pilgrims, arranged in six-seven lines that move through narrow corridors toward the sanctum.

Inside the ICCC, around 30 workstations operate round the clock. Crowd-counting cameras at 69 queue gates and compartment sections ensure that capacities are never exceeded. If a section crosses its threshold, a red alert prompts TTD staff to adjust the flow, pack compartments more efficiently, or hold back new entrants until space frees up.

This approach has apparently helped keep Tirumala stampede-free even during record-breaking days when over 14,000 vehicles and 3,500 from the previous day converged on the hilltop recently.

AI cameras and facial-recognition systems flag suspicious behaviour — such as pickpocketing or loitering — in real time and compare them against a database of known "bad actors" at key entry points like Alipiri and Srivari Mettu.

"All security cameras are now integrated into this centre, enabling real-time monitoring of pilgrims, missing persons, vehicles, and lost luggage," said TTD Chief Vigilance and Security Officer KV Murali Krishna.

"We can scale this up to link with criminal records for enhanced security," the senior IPS officer told *DH*.

The origin

The idea for the Integrated Command Control Centre took shape during IT Minister Nara Lokesh's 2024 visit to Silicon Valley in the US, where he studied smart-city projects, AI platforms and digital-twin technologies.

"We identified real challenges — such as siloed operations and massive pilgrim crowds despite strong infrastructure — which clearly called for AI-driven solutions," said Jaya Prasad Vejendla, a Guntur-born entrepreneur who spent 27 years in Silicon Valley and served as the project's chief architect.

The technology stack combines intelligence platform Kloudspot's twin digital-monitoring solution with NVIDIA's high-performance computing infrastructure. Predictive analytics forecast Sarvadarsanam wait times, 3D congestion visualisations map crowd density in real time, and unified cyber-threat monitoring safeguards both pilgrims and temple systems.

Vijay eyes strategic seat for poll debut

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Chennai or Central Tamil Nadu? This is the top question before strategists and leaders of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as they scout an Assembly seat for actor-politician Vijay for the April-May elections.

TVK Chief Vijay

"He will contest from one of the 16 seats in the capital Chennai or from a constituency in Central Tamil Nadu, purely for strategic reasons," a TVK source told *DH*.

Virugambakkam and Velachery in Chennai, Vikravandi in Villupuram district, and Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam district, and a few other constituencies in the Central TN are being considered. "We will finalise the seat very soon and make it public," the source added.

All the seats begin with the letter "V", symbolising Vijay and victory — a sentiment cherished by leaders during their electoral debut. Vijay's tinsel-town senior, the late Vijayakanth, also contested from Vriddhachalam in the Cuddalore district. It is also believed that Vijay's astrologer has suggested that he contest from a seat whose name begins with "V".

Virugambakkam and Vikravandi also have some sentiment attached to them. Virugambakkam is the constituency where Saligramam — the locality where Vijay was raised — falls, and Vikravandi is where he formally launched his party, the TVK.

Velachery, which came into being in 2011 after delimitation, is being suggested due to its demographics. It has a sizeable chunk of IT professionals, middle-class, and upper-middle-class voters.

"The reason for choosing Chennai or Central TN is to ensure that there is a greater impact for the TVK. Vijay's contesting from Chennai will elevate the party across the capital region, which has about 40 seats. Any seat in Central TN will have an impact across the area and the northern region," said another source.

If Vijay chooses Chennai, it will be a bold political move, as he would challenge the DMK — the ruling party — in its citadel. It and its ally, the Congress, won all 16 seats in the city in 2021.

Chief Minister M K Stalin and his deputy and son Udhayanidhi are likely to seek re-election from Kolathur and Chepauk-Tiruvallikeni constituencies in Chennai.

DMK and allies to protest against Union Budget on Feb 12

CHENNAI, DHNS: The DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) on Saturday announced a statewide protest against the BJP-led Union government for "ignoring the interests" of Tamil Nadu in the Union Budget on February 12.

This comes amid differences between the DMK and its allies, like the Congress and VCK, over the sharing of seats for the Assembly elections. While Congress has demanded a greater share in seats, the VCK has threatened to quit the alliance if the DMK is keen on inducting the S Ramadoss-led faction of the PMK.

"The protests will be held in cities, towns, villages, and at the union level on Thursday. All constituents of the Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) will participate in the demonstration," the DMK said.

The party said the Union Budget has denied funds rightfully due for Tamil Nadu and is burdening the state government by scrapping the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. "Yet the AIADMK is not protesting against the move," it added.

BJP's Ritu Tawde set to be Mumbai mayor

MUMBAI, DHNS: The BJP's Ritu Tawde is set to be the new mayor of Mumbai, presiding over the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the richest and one of the biggest civic bodies in India.

She would be the BJP's second Mumbai mayor and the party's first woman to occupy the post. This is also for the first time in 25 years that Mumbai will not have a mayor from the undivided Shiv Sena, led by the Thackeray family.

This time, the post was reserved for a woman from the general category. From the Maha Yuti, the BJP nominated Tawde for the post, while the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena fielded Sanjay Shankar Ghadi as the deputy mayor.

In the 227-member corporation, where the magic figure is 114, the BJP is the single-largest party with 89 seats. Its ally, the Shiv Sena, won 29 seats, taking the Maha Yuti tally to 118, while Ajit Pawar's NCP secured three seats. On the other side, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) won 65 seats. The Congress won 24 seats.

Ritu Tawde with deputy mayoral candidate Sanjay Shankar Ghadi. PTI

The Sena (UBT) decided not to contest the post. "Since the BJP has chosen a Marathi to become Mumbai's mayor, we will not give our candidate... We will work as a strong Opposition," said former mayor Kishori Pednekar.

The Opposition parties, however, pointed out the new mayor's Congress stint. NCP (SP) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said, "The BJP has chosen a former Congress leader as their mayor of Mumbai. This is an insult to all faithful, loyal, and experienced BJP corporators who have given their blood, sweat, and tears for the BJP. Is this the BJP's message to its workers, that being faithful and loyal is not valued?"

Gujarat student slaps teacher, brings people to threaten her

PANCHMAHAL (GUJARAT), PTI: A mild reprimand for arriving late for a Class 12 preliminary test triggered an outburst of anger in a student who allegedly slapped the woman invigilator for "daring" to question his behaviour in Panchmahal district.

Later, the student returned to the premises of the school with his father and a group of people, and allegedly threatened to harm the teacher who lives alone, police said.

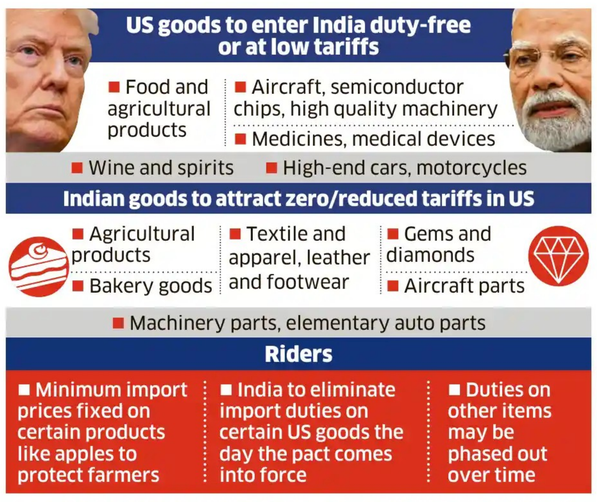
Amid outrage after CCTV footage of the January 24 slapping incident, which occurred on January 24 at S J Dave High School in Shehra town, went viral, an FIR was registered on February 3.

The student, Mohammed Khan Ansari (18), was subsequently arrested and produced in a court, which released him on bail on Friday, police inspector Ankur Chaudhary said.

Trump links tariff rollback to Russian oil

Warns duty may return if India resumes purchases

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS


US goods to enter India duty-free or at low tariffs
Food and agricultural products
Aircraft, semiconductor chips, high quality machinery
Medicines, medical devices
Wine and spirits
High-end cars, motorcycles
Indian goods to attract zero/reduced tariffs in US
Agricultural products
Bakery goods
Textile and apparel, leather and footwear
Gems and diamonds
Aircraft parts
Machinery parts, elementary auto parts
Riders
Minimum import prices fixed on certain products like apples to protect farmers
India to eliminate import duties on certain US goods the day the pact comes into force
Duties on other items may be phased out over time

India has taken significant steps to align itself more closely with the United States on national security, foreign policy and economic issues, President Donald Trump has said, even as he put in writing what he has been claiming for months — that the Modi government had "committed to stop directly and indirectly importing" oil from Russia.

Trump also noted that New Delhi had committed to a framework with Washington to expand defence cooperation over the next 10 years and import US energy products.

New Delhi continued to avoid confirming or denying his claim about India's commitment to stop buying oil from Russia, but reiterated that diversifying sourcing was at the core of its strategy to ensure energy security for its 140 crore people.

Moscow, too, recently noted that it had no reason to believe that India had reconsidered its approach on the purchase of Russian hydrocarbons.

Trump issued an executive order on Friday, withdrawing the 25% punitive tariff imposed in August 2025 on India's exports to the US, a move aimed at persuading the Modi government to stop importing Russian crude. The withdrawal came into effect on Saturday. However, Trump warned that the duty could be reimposed if India were to restart Russian oil imports.

The move came on the day India and the US issued a joint statement announcing a framework for an interim agreement on "reciprocal, mutually beneficial trade".

Possible reimposition

Meanwhile, Trump asked the US Secretaries of Commerce, State, and Treasury to monitor whether India resumed oil purchases from Russia, and, if it did so, to recommend whether and to what extent he should take additional action, including whether he should reimpose the 25% duty.

India's traditional dependence on Russia for military hardware has been an irritant in its relations with the United States.

Russia's share in India's total crude oil imports rose from less than 2% before the launch of its war in Ukraine in 2022 to around 40% by 2023-24. But imports from Russia came down from over 2 million barrels per day in June 2025 to 1.6 million barrels per day in September 2025.

The imports rebounded in October 2025 and the first half of November 2025, but fell by nearly 30% after the stringent US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil in Russia came into effect.

Meanwhile, India on Saturday neither confirmed nor denied halting Russian crude imports after the US withdrew a 25% punitive tariff on Indian goods.

Congress: Govt surrendered India's interest

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Saturday attacked the government over the trade deal, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has surrendered India's interest by making the country a dumping yard for the US and succumbing to the pressure on Russian oil imports and willingly putting the country on American watch.

While General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said "huglomacy and photo-ops" have not amounted to much, Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera said a "scared" Modi has "surrendered and compromised" the country's interest, as the US forced India to agree to the deal "at gunpoint and through blackmail".

"The US will now monitor whether India is importing oil from Russia. If the US decides India has imported Russian oil directly or indirectly, the extra 25 per cent tariff penalty is back. This is truly extraordinary. And we have accepted it. 'Naam (name) Narender, Kaam (job) Surrender'," Ramesh posted on 'X'.

Ramesh said India at present enjoys a trade surplus of about $ 45 billion with America, but the deal now says the country would buy for $ 500 billion more over the next five years, which means imports from America will at least triple. Khera said there is no corresponding commitment from the US to buy from India.

Former finance minister P Chidambaram said his "preliminary view" is that the framework deal is "heavily tilted in favour of the US and the asymmetry is obvious".

Assam Cabinet to send Gaurav Gogoi Pakistan-link case to Centre

GUWAHATI, PTI: The Assam cabinet on Saturday decided to refer the case of Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's alleged Pakistan links to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Gaurav Gogoi

He maintained that there are "three key players" in the case – an MP, his British wife and Pakistani national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh.

Addressing a press conference, Sarma said, "The Assam government had constituted an SIT to inquire into the alleged anti-India conspiracy of Sheikh in connivance with a British citizen and an MP. Keeping in mind the seriousness of the matter, it was decided to hand it over to the MHA."

"The SIT report and the case registered on the basis of which the probe was conducted will be forwarded to the MHA. It can use any of its investigating agencies to take it forward," he said. The CM said the cabinet was of the view that the case "involves national security and is not a personal one".

Sarma and the BJP have been attacking Gogoi, who also heads the state Congress, over his wife's alleged connection with Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

The state government had formed a SIT to probe the matter. It submitted its report to Sarma on September 10, the date which was initially set by the CM for providing evidence to back his accusations against Gogoi.

Sarma said the "information that is not confidential will be revealed at a press conference" on Sunday, with the cabinet authorising him to do so. Without naming Gogoi, Sarma said, "I can at least confirm that an honourable MP from Assam visited Pakistan when his father was the chief minister."

Gogoi has maintained that Sarma's remarks were "ridiculous, baseless, insane and nonsense", and that he was behaving like an "IT cell troll" without talking facts.

Agricultural imports trigger farmer unease

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

While India has kept sensitive sectors such as dairy, rice, wheat, meat, poultry, cereals, genetically modified foods, soya, and maize outside the ambit of its trade deal with the US, farmers' groups have expressed apprehensions about the pact.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan insisted that the agriculture and dairy sectors would be totally protected, and that the trade deal was a big victory for Indian farmers.

However, India has allowed low-duty or zero-duty imports of Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), soybean oil, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, and fresh and processed fruits.

Women farmer works in a field in Bastar district. PTI FILE

According to experts, duty cuts on some of these agricultural products will not negatively impact either the agriculture sector or the dairy sector.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF/Amul) Managing Director Jayen Mehta hailed the trade deal as a "major win" for farmers, noting that it blocks broad access to dairy while enhancing export prospects and overall competitiveness.

However, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) criticised the trade deal. "Maize will be sold as dried distilled grain and DDB, along with sorghum, as animal feed. US companies will completely monopolise control of the animal feed market," it said in a statement.

"The US is already exporting crops such as maize, soybean, and cotton to India, and US wheat is being exported at Rs 18.5 per kg, which will kill Indian farmers if it is allowed to flood the Indian markets," it added.

"There will be freedom to import GM foods and seeds, which will ruin our natural fertility, apart from damaging our cereal, pulses and oilseeds markets," claimed the Morcha.

Safeguards interests: BJP

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi defended the India-US trade agreement, asserting that it "safeguards the interests of Indian farmers" even as discussions continue over the pact's implications, reports DHNS. He said India's approach to bilateral trade deals has consistently prioritised the agricultural sector and that the government has ensured the same in negotiations with the US.

2 dead, several feared trapped as building collapses in Kota

JAIPUR, PTI: At least two people were killed and several others feared trapped when a three-storey building collapsed in Rajasthan's Kota on Saturday night, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Talwandi area, where a restaurant was operating in the building. Police and rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.

Calling it a "major accident", Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Madan Dilawar said, "There is information of two deaths so far, and nine people were hospitalised. Four of them are still in the hospital, while around four have either shifted to a private hospital or gone home."

According to initial information, some customers and employees were present in the restaurant at the time of the collapse.

Local MLA Sandeep Sharma, who reached the spot soon after the incident, said the building collapsed suddenly and there was a possibility that more people were trapped under the debris.

Earlier, District Collector Piyush Samaria told reporters that teams were deployed immediately after the collapse.

All those living in India are Hindus, says RSS chief Bhagwat

'Hindu is a broader cultural and civilisational term and not religious'

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

All those living in India are Hindus, Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said, asserting that the word Hindu "is not a noun but an adjective".

Bhagwat acknowledged India's diversity in languages, food habits, religious practices, deities, rituals and regional differences, but said all these co-exist within a shared cultural framework.

"There is one identity that unites us all, and we call it a Hindu. It's a broader cultural and civilisational term and not religious... Bharat is not just a geographical entity, but represents a cultural attitude," said Bhagwat.

Besides, he pointed out that "dharmanirpekshata" is a wrong word and the correct word is "pantnirpekshata".

"Being the most ancient, we, the Hindus, are the aagraj (elders) of the world. People from around the world will observe our character and learn from us, he said."

"We will teach, not through speeches or dadagiri (domineering attitude), but through behaviour and character," the RSS chief said.

"Social harmony means that in our sphere of communication, without any discrimination, there should be friends among all sections of the Hindu society," said the Sangh chief.

The observations of the RSS chief came at the two-day lecture series — "100 years of Sangh Journey-New Horizons' — organised to mark the centenary celebrations of the RSS in Mumbai. The invitees have been classified into a total of 10 categories, including dignitaries from the fields of economy, judiciary, administration, arts, sports, religion, politics, corporate sector, cinema, and others.

Among those seen at the event were actors Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, filmmaker Subhash Ghai, actor Hema Malini, who is also a BJP MP, actor Ashvini Bhave, singer Anuradha Paudwal, and Prasoon Joshi.

Speaking about the Sangh's journey, Bhagwat said: "The Sangh has not emerged in competition with any other organisation, nor has it emerged in reaction or opposition to any. Our work is done without opposing anyone. The Sangh does not seek popularity. The Sangh does not seek power. All the good works happening in the country should be done properly—that is what the Sangh is for."

"The Sangh swayamsevaks are running more than 1.3 lakh service activities without taking any money from the government and spending their own money with the cooperation of society," he said.

Weeks from retirement, police inspector dies saving lives at Haryana fair

FARIDABAD, PTI

An on-duty police inspector was killed and 11 people were wounded at the Surajkund fairgrounds on Saturday when a giant swing snapped mid-air and collapsed, just an hour after a gate fell down, injuring two persons, including a child, officials said.

According to the police, around 6 pm, about 19 people were riding the swing when it tilted and came crashing onto the ground.

A senior official said the deceased officer was identified as Inspector Jagdish Prasad of Palwal Police, who was on fair duty and was posted in the police lines, Palwal.

Police personnel at the spot after a swing fell down at Surajkund fair in Faridabad on Saturday. PTI

Inspector Prasad, a native of Mathura, was due to retire in March, he added.

The swing was moving up and down at a very fast speed when suddenly, one of its ends broke, leaving it hanging in the air about 2-3 feet above the ground, the police said.

As soon as the accident occurred, shopkeepers and policemen from nearby areas rushed to rescue the victim.

"Several people had been taken off the swing and people nearby supported the fallen portion and helped in rescuing people. Suddenly, the swing broke from the other end as well and fell completely to the ground," the officer said.

Many people got stuck and the inspector was seriously injured, he added.

The officer tried to save people and showed great bravery, but in the process he received severe injuries to his face and head, leading to his death, the official said.

HC quashes single-judge bench's placard punishment to student

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A division bench of the Allahabad High Court has set aside an order of a single-judge bench that directed a Noida student to stand at the gate of the university campus for 30 days with a placard stating that he would never misbehave with any girl.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Kshitij Shailendra, said that the direction was not only "humiliating" but could also leave a permanent blot on the student's character.

The court passed the order on a petition by the student challenging the single-judge bench's order, which was delivered last year.

The student, who is pursuing the medical lab technology course at Noida International University, was accused of misbehaving with a girl who studied at a different institution. The varsity expelled the student following the allegations.

He moved the HC against the varsity order. The single-judge bench quashed the expulsion, but ordered the student to stand at the campus gate for 30 days with a placard stating "I will never misbehave with any girl". The student then filed a special appeal against this order.

The division bench said that the punishment would leave a permanent scar on his character, one that would never heal. It, however, kept the other conditions imposed on the student.

The single-judge bench had said the student would have to tender a written apology for his actions within 72 hours and maintain regular presence in class. It had also directed the deployment of the "anti-Romeo squad" of the police at the gate of the varsity.

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/IND0026 Date: 07/02/2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of 100 Mobile Phones For District Hardware Consultants, Bhoomi Consultants, BMC Staff Revenue Department, Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender form e-procurement portal is 21/02/2026 by 5.30 P.M. Details regarding terms and conditions are available at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner (Incharge),
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department

DIPR/CP/SPAN/5527/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer HAL Airport Division
1st cross MEG Layout, Akash Nagar, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru-560 040

Tend No: BECC/EE/HRM/TN/02/2025-26 Date: 07.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Horamavu division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Providing for PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control Improvements and developments to Roads and drains and other allied works in HAL Airport, ANarayanapura and Vignan Nagara wards in HAL Airport Division (GO SL No :33, 34, 35) Package-1 for the year 2025-26. **Project Cost :** Rs.500.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 10300/-.

Time Schedule/Calendar of events: 1)Tender Document may be downloaded: through KPP portal from: 09.02.2026. 2) Pre-bid Meeting : 13.02.2026 11.30 AM Office of the Executive Engineer HAL Airport Division, 1st cross MEG Layout, Akash Nagar, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru-560 040. 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of: Tenders : 18.02.2026 up to 4:00 PM. 4) Opening of Technical bid: 19.02.2026 at 4:30 PM. 5) Validity of Tender : 90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HAL Airport, Zone-2

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:49:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04–02–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ) ಅನುದಾನಡಿ(2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (ಮಳಿಗೆ ನಿಧಿ) (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ(3ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಎ.ಪಿ ಅನುದಾನ – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 14 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.5, 6, 8 ಹಾಗೂ 13ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06–02–2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 13–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 13–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 16–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 04, 07, 09 ರಿಂದ 12, 14ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06–02–2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 21–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 21–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 23–02–2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/719/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru-570017, Phone: 0821-2343384
Email ID: gmhrd@cescmysore.org, Website: www.cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number (CIN): U40109KA2004SGC035177

No.CESC/A&HR/02/JPM-1/2025-26(Counselling)/35844 Date: 06.02.2026

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024 and Final Selection Lists published on 13.11.2025, for the posts of **Junior Powerman (NKK)** in CESC, the counselling process for issuing appointment orders to the selected candidates is scheduled to be held on **20.02.2026** at **Corporate Office, No.29, Vijayanagara, 2nd Stage, Hinkal, Mysore - 570017**. For more details please visit **Recruitment link** in CESC website **https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- General Manager (A & HR),
Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYSORE/1630/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯ&ಪಾಲನಾ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ–571401
ದೂ:9449598633

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O&M Circle, CESC, Mandya-571401
Web Site: www.cescmysore.org Email ID: seemdy@cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number [CIN]:-40109KA2004SGC035177

No.SEE/EE(O)/AET/F-41/2025-26/5642 Date: 05.02.2026

E-Auction Notification (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Mandya O & M circle, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation is inviting e-Auction bidding from eligible bidders for the sale and disposal of Scraped Distribution Transformers and other materials on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' in various stores of CESC, O & M Circle, Mandya jurisdiction. The store details are as below;

Sl No	Division	Contact No. of Store Officer
1	Mandya	8277889833
2	Madduru	9449598525
3	Pandavapura	9480841192
4	K.R.Pete	8277883811
5	Nagamangala	9480816902

The details of quantity etc., and regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 12-02-2026. For clarification contact help desk+91-8046010000,+91-8068948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-Superintending Engineer (Ele)
O & M circle, CESC, Mandya

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/770/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-1/2025-26/5763 Dated : 05-02-2026.

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.**TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32190	400.00
2)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32681	300.00
3)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32682	300.00
4)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32683	300.00
5)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32684	300.00
6)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31532	430.00
7)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT33037	20.00
8)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32192	150.00
9)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32704	500.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.

1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): **12-02-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**

2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: **18-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours**

3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **19-02-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/975/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ – ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 207, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29787452, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dhobangalorerural@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಆಕುಕ/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾ/ಸರಬ/ಶುಚಿ/01/205–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ **'ಶುಚಿ'** ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿ 6 ರಿಂದ 10ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪದವಿಪೂರ್ವ ಹದಿಹರೆಯದ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ 03 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ **Sanitary Napkin Pad** ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

KPPP Tender Ref No: DHFWS/2025-26/IND2187 ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026**
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.02.2026**

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/5522/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 07.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of Laboratory and other works to Government Polytechnic College at KGF, Kolar district under SCP/TSP 2022-23 Scheme. **Work Indent :** KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 704 & IFT No.147/2025-26 Date: 05.02.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.2,28,14,785/-.
2	Construction of Government Polytechnic College at Bidar, Bidar district under SCP/TSP 2022-23 scheme. **Work Indent :** KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 703 & IFT No.146/2025-26 Date: 05.02.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 2,25,73,604/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5528/AKAR/2025-26

KALAYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Main Road, Kalaburagi, **(TRAFFIC (COM) SECTION)**

No:KKT:CO:TRF:COM-2/5073 /2025-26 Dtd:06-2-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:01/2026 (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Bids are invited through e- portal from Individual/ Partnership firm/ Company/ Corporation/ consortium/ Joint Venture for the grant of advertising rights to display advertisement on the back side of Passenger Tickets ETM (Electronic Ticket Issue Machine) thermal rolls of KKRTC for a period of one year.

1) Calendar of events : 1. For submission of queries: **18.2.2026 17:00 hrs,** 2. Pre-Bid meeting: **20.2.2026 11:00 hrs,** 3. Last date of Submission of Bids : **02.3.2026 17:00 hrs,** 4. Opening of Technical Bid: **05.3.2026 11:00 hrs,** 5. Opening of Financial Bid: **12.3.2026 11:00 hrs**

2) The financial bids of the bidders, those who have qualified in Technical bid will only be opened. 3) The RFP Documents along with terms and conditions, Eligibility Criteria and other technical details can be downloaded from the e-portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 4) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs 200000.00: Bidders has to pay through e-Portal by e-payment mode. 5) KKRTC reserves the right to accept or reject tender without assigning any reason thereof. 6) For more details on terms and conditions etc contact DTO, Central Office-7760992047/7760992024.

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager
KKRTC, Central office Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1054/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂ.: 0836–2747944, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ : ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.1,2,3,4,5/2025–26/6343 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

I.F.T – KW –1,2 & 4
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2 & 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ರೂ.4.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ.1000–00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2059–80–053–4–00–200, 3054–04–337–1–10–200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2025–26 3054–03–337–0–05–200-V ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ 2216–07–053–0–01–200** ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಸತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 8443 **Deposit Contribution** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

General	SC
1) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29596	10) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33240
2) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31137	11) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33249
3) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29612	12) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23889
4) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT32641	ST
5) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33202	13) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33259
6) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23897	CAT-II(A)
7) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23826	14) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33053
8) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33237	15) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33245
9) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23828	

1) Calander of Events: 1) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 13–02–2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–02–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–02–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–02–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

General: 16) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22301 (Extension)

2) Calander of Events: 1) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–02–2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–02–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–02–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka,gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1208/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

LUNAR MISSION Fuel leaks highlight challenges as it seeks leadership amid China's rise

Artemis II delay exposes technical & strategic hurdles in US Moon push

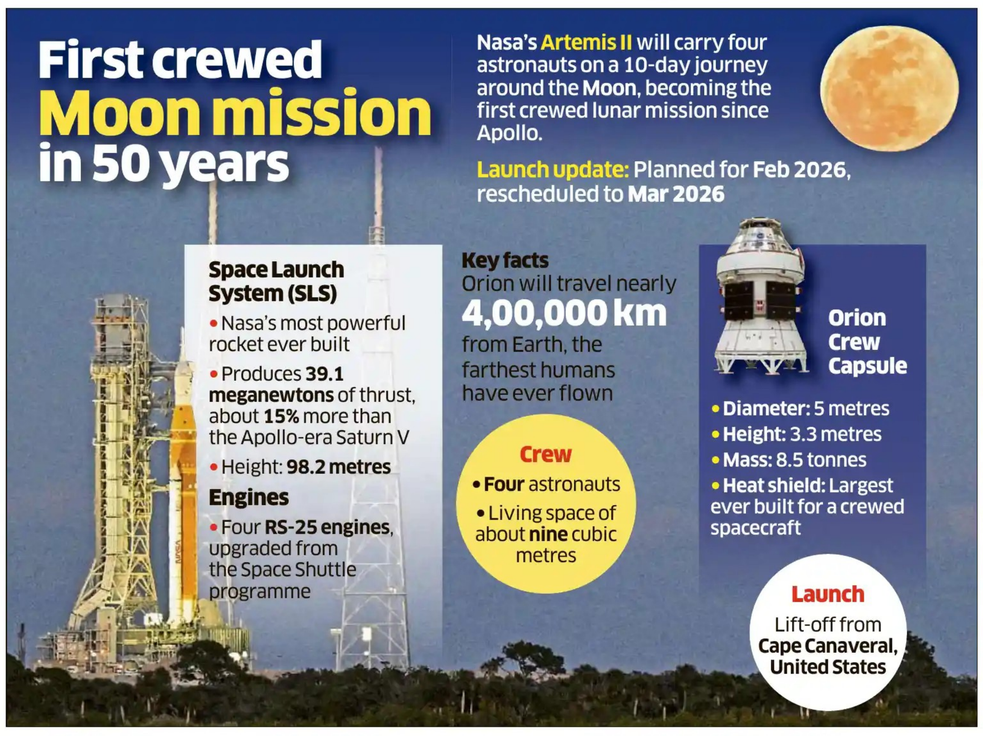
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's decision to delay the Artemis II Moon mission until at least March, after hydrogen fuel leaks disrupted a key dress rehearsal, highlights both the technical fragility of its heavy-lift rocket and the growing strategic pressure behind America's return to the Moon.

The immediate cause of the postponement was familiar. Hydrogen leaks, detected during fuelling of the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket at Kennedy Space Centre, forced Nasa to halt a wet dress rehearsal that was meant to clear the way for a February launch. Similar problems delayed the uncrewed Artemis I mission in 2022, underlining how difficult hydrogen — highly flammable and notoriously hard to contain — remains to manage.

"Actually, this one caught us off guard," Nasa's John Honeycutt said, hours after the countdown was stopped on Tuesday. Until then, Nasa had been targeting as early as this weekend for humanity's first crewed trip to the Moon in more than half a century.

The delay will allow engineers to conduct another fuelling test before committing four astronauts — three from the US and one from Canada — to a 10-day lunar fly-around. Nasa believes repairs can be completed at the launchpad, avoiding a rollback to the Vehicle Assembly Building that would push the mission back further. From a technical standpoint, the episode reinforces the experimental nature of the SLS rocket. Built partly from Space Shuttle-era components and flown only once so far, the rocket faces long gaps between launches and limited opportunities for testing. Nasa officials have acknowledged that such intervals increase the likelihood of problems surfacing late in the countdown.

Amit Kshatriya, Nasa's associate administrator, cautioned against viewing the vehicle as operational. With four decades having passed since the Challenger disaster, he said the agency must resist pressure to normalise systems that remain essentially developmental.


First crewed
Moon mission
in 50 years
Nasa's Artemis II will carry four astronauts on a 10-day journey around the Moon, becoming the first crewed lunar mission since Apollo.
Launch update: Planned for Feb 2026, rescheduled to Mar 2026
Space Launch System (SLS)
• Nasa's most powerful rocket ever built
• Produces 39.1 meganewtons of thrust, about 15% more than the Apollo-era Saturn V
• Height: 98.2 metres
Engines
• Four RS-25 engines, upgraded from the Space Shuttle programme
Key facts
Orion will travel nearly 4,00,000 km from Earth, the farthest humans have ever flown
Crew
• Four astronauts
• Living space of about nine cubic metres
Orion Crew Capsule
• Diameter: 5 metres
• Height: 3.3 metres
• Mass: 8.5 tonnes
• Heat shield: Largest ever built for a crewed spacecraft
Launch
Lift-off from Cape Canaveral, United States

New moon rush

Beyond engineering, the Artemis II delay carries strategic significance. The mission sits at the centre of a renewed American push to the Moon, driven not only by science but by geopolitics. US officials see the Moon's south polar region as particularly valuable because it may hold water ice that could support long-term human presence and future fuel production.

At the same time, China is accelerating its own lunar ambitions, including plans for a joint research station later this decade. In Washington, this has sharpened concerns that early movers could shape future rules on access, infrastructure and resource use in cislunar space.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly framed the Artemis programme as essential to maintaining US leadership in space, linking lunar exploration to broader strategic competition. That framing adds urgency to Artemis timelines, even as technical realities impose limits on how fast Nasa can move.

The delay also illustrates how tightly constrained global human spaceflight has become. Artemis II's slip briefly opened a launch window for a US crewed mission to the International Space Station, only for that plan to be complicated by separate issues affecting commercial rockets. Russia's own launch capability remains disrupted after damage to a launchpad, leaving few operational paths to orbit.

For the Artemis II astronauts, the postponement is a pause rather than a setback. Commander Reid Wiseman and his crew have been released from quarantine and will resume training ahead of a possible March 6 launch. The mission will not land on the Moon or enter lunar orbit but will test Orion's life-support and navigation systems before a future landing attempt.

Half a century after Apollo, Nasa's return to the Moon is unfolding in a far more complex environment — one where engineering caution, political expectations and international rivalry are increasingly intertwined. The Artemis II delay is a reminder that reaching the Moon again is not just a technological challenge, but a strategic balancing act.

AP/PTI

Trust has become India's strongest currency : Modi

PM highlights trade deals, diaspora ties during Malaysia visit

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. PTI

India's trade deals with US, UK, EU and other countries reflect its transformation from being just a huge market into a hub for investment and commerce, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, noting that the world had begun to see the country as a trusted partner.

"Trust has become India's strongest currency," Modi said, addressing the Indian diaspora in Malaysia at an event in Kuala Lumpur.

"Earlier, India was seen just as a huge market. Now, we are a hub for investment and trade. India is seen as a trusted partner for growth. Whether it is the UK, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU or the US, countries have trade deals with India."

The prime minister made the comment just a few hours after India and the US issued a joint statement announcing that they had reached a framework for an interim agreement on "reciprocal, mutually beneficial trade".

India and the European Union announced the conclusion of negotiations for a free trade agreement on January 27. This followed the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Oman on December 18 and the conclusion of negotiations for a free trade agreement with New Zealand on December 22.

Earlier, India signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the UK in July 2025, a CEPA with the UAE in February 2022, and an interim trade deal with Australia in December 2022, which is now set to be expanded into a broader Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

As Modi landed in Kuala Lumpur for a two-day visit, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia personally received him at the airport. Ibrahim also joined Modi at the congregation of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia.

Four Indian students injured in Russian university stabbing

Teen attacker and two police officers among those hurt

MOSCOW, PTI

At least six people, including four Indian students, were injured on Saturday in a stabbing attack at a university in Russia's Bashkortostan Republic, media reports and the Indian mission here said.

According to preliminary reports, a teenager armed with a knife entered a dormitory of the State Medical University in Ufa, in the Bashkortostan Republic. He attacked students living there and stabbed several of them, the Interior Ministry said. "The attacker resisted arrest, during which two police officers were stabbed. Furthermore, the suspect also inflicted bodily harm on himself," Interior Ministry spokesperson Major General Irina Volk was quoted as saying by the RTVI.com news portal.

Calling it an "unfortunate incident", the Indian Embassy said: "Several persons, including four Indian students, have been injured." The embassy said it is in touch with the authorities and that officials from the Consulate in Kazan are en route to Ufa to provide assistance to the injured students.

In a release, the Russian Federal Health Ministry said four people injured in the attack are receiving medical care. One is in serious condition, while three others are in moderate condition.

The attacker, identified as a 15-year-old, has also been admitted to a local children's hospital in serious condition, the Baza Telegram channel reported.

Authorities in Ufa, the capital of the Bashkortostan Republic, about 1,200 km east of Moscow, have launched a high-level probe into the incident. The Baza channel claimed the attacker belonged to a banned neo-Nazi outfit.

"He belonged to the banned NS/WP neo-Nazi organisation. During the attack, he was shouting nationalist slogans about the Holocaust," it said, sharing an image of a swastika drawn on a wall with the blood of the victims. According to eyewitnesses, "there was blood all around," Ren TV reported, showing footage of the wounded being taken to hospital in ambulances.

US sets June deadline for Ukraine-Russia deal: Zelenskyy

KYIV, AP/PTI: The US has given Ukraine and Russia a June deadline to reach a deal to end the nearly four-year war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told reporters, as Russian strikes on energy infrastructure forced nuclear power plants to cut output on Saturday.

If the June deadline is not met, the Trump administration will likely put pressure on both sides to comply, he added.

"The Americans are proposing the parties end the war by the beginning of this summer and will probably put pressure on the parties precisely according to this schedule," Zelenskyy said, speaking to reporters on Friday. His comments were embargoed until Saturday morning.

Trump hails Iran talks, threatens tariffs on trade partners

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump said Washington had held "very good talks" on Iran after the two sides conducted indirect dialogue in Oman, pledging another round of negotiations next week, even as he signed an executive order threatening tariffs on Iran's trade partners.

Iran, for its part, said it expected to hold more negotiations with the US, hailing a "positive atmosphere" during a day of talks in the Gulf sultanate.

"We likewise had very good talks on Iran," Trump told reporters on board Air Force One en route to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. "We're going to meet again early next week," he added. On Friday, Trump signed an executive order, effective from Saturday, calling for a fresh "imposition of tariffs" on countries that continue to do business with Iran. The order establishes a process to impose levies on goods imported into the US from countries that trade with Tehran.

US map shows PoK, Aksai Chin as part of India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: As New Delhi and Washington announced details of the bilateral interim trade agreement framework, a map of India issued by the United States Trade Representative's office on Friday drew attention.

The map, posted by the US Trade Representative on social media site X, showed the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir, including Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), as Indian territory.

Similarly, the Aksai Chin region, claimed by China, is also shown as part of Indian territory, signalling a significant message from the US.

On previous occasions, maps of India have shown a demarcated line to portray PoK and the Aksai Chin region. However, the map issued by the USTR shows the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir, including these areas, as an integral part of India.

New Delhi has consistently underscored that the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India.

India also asserts that Aksai Chin is an integral part of its territory based on historical claims and past treaties.

Previously, China's "standard map" has staked claims over Arunachal Pradesh, the Aksai Chin region, Taiwan, and the disputed South China Sea. India and the US on Friday announced that they have reached a framework for the first phase of a bilateral trade agreement.

SU DO KU X - 3821

							1	
				4				9
	2	6		3				8
				8				
		9				7		1
1				9	5			
	5		6					7
						5		
			4					

SOLUTION TO 3820

9	8	4	1	6	7	3	5	2
1	3	6	2	5	4	7	9	8
7	5	2	8	3	9	1	6	4
4	7	9	6	8	5	2	1	3
6	1	3	9	4	2	8	7	5
5	2	8	3	7	1	6	4	9
3	9	7	4	1	8	5	2	6
2	6	5	7	9	3	4	8	1
8	4	1	5	2	6	9	3	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-04.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DH-ADMNOSV(STAT)/7/2025-SV ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.02.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ 21 ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚುಗಾರರು, (DEO) 22 ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಹಾಗೂ 12 ಸೇವಕರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.03.2026 ರಂದು 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಪರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ)

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಾ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಎಎಎ/5508/2025-26

Town Municipal Council Chikodi

SL:TMC:CKD:CMIDP:2025-26 Date:07.02.2026

(KPP Portal) Tender notification 2nd call
(Notice inviting tender through KPP Portal)

Town Municipal Council Chikodi invites tender for Civil license contractors in KW-3 Document for work under CMIDP Grant 1) Indent No 54049/call-2 Rs. 54.00 lakh (Others). Work period 3 month.

Sl No:1:Last Date & Time for Tender document download:07.02.2026, Sl No:2:Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders:14.02.2026 @ 4.00 PM, Sl No:3:Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid:16.02.2026 @ 4.00 PM, Sl No:4:Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid:17.02.2026 @ 11.00 AM,Sl No:5:Number of days to extend:2 Days.

Above tender work details are in available KPPP website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and TMC website www.chikoditown.mrc.gov.in.

Sd/-Chief Officer
TMC Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1790/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

Tender No. BDA/E.E.(E)/1088/2025-26 Date: 07.02.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT192). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: **(1)** Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **09.02.2026. (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid Queries: **11.02.2026, 11.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **11.02.2026, 15.00 Hrs. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **19.02.2026, 17.00 Hrs. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **21.02.2026, after 11.00 Hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagara Division, 39th Cross, 18th Main Road, Jayanagara 4th T Block, Bengaluru - 560 041.

No: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/03/2025-26 Date:06-02-2026

CORRIGENDUM

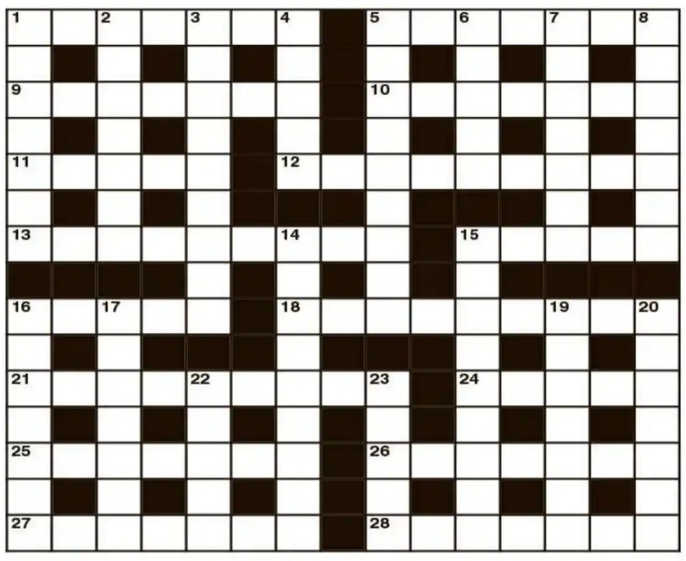
Sub: Regarding corrigendum for Short term tender notification
Ref: This office Tender Notification No. EE/BSCC/JN/TEND /03/2025-26 Dated: 23-01-2026

With reference to the above subject, the short tender was invited vide notification number: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND /03/2025-26 on Dated:23-01-2026. Due to Technical reasons the Calendar of Events of the Tender is postponed as mentioned below. Rest, all remains the same.

Calendar of Events: Proposed Dates & Timings:(1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **12-02-2026** at **4:00** pm (2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **19-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bid is **20-02-2026** at **4:05** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Jayanagara Division

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2666 ◆



ACROSS
1 Progress (7)
5 Colouring matter (7)
9 Act of retaliation (7)
10 Become aware of (7)
11 Dry land (5)
12 A failed attempt to impress (4,5)
13 Unwavering (9)
15 Large Mediterranean island (5)
16 Ward off (5)
18 Loquacious (9)
21 Self-service restaurant (9)
24 Lift with great effort (5)
25 Type of warship (7)
26 Person keeping watch (7)
27 Coagulate (7)
28 Existing in name only (7)

DOWN
1 Control and utilise (7)
2 Hostile (7)
3 Gain victory in battle (3,3,3)
4 Give way (5)
5 Boundary of fortified position (9)
6 Drinking vessel (5)
7 Gourmet (7)
8 Quiver (7)
14 Offer promise of success (5,4)
15 Detected in a mistake (6,3)
16 Peaceable (7)
17 Brutal violent person (7)
19 Enjoying a winning streak (2,1,4)
20 Take cover (7)
22 Very small amount (5)
23 Apportion (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4026

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, On the line 10, A cut above 12, Sent (scent) 13, Appeal (a peel) 14, No-(ho)ur-I-sh 15, Dwarf tree 17, Re-dresses 18, Ri-d-d-led 19, Pig-eon 20, Fall 23, Promising 25, Went forth (fourth) 26, Tie-R 27, Albe-I-t 29, Growler 32, Hide-bound 34, Scratches 35, Leaf-let 36, R-E-ally 37, T-wit 38, Classmate 39, Discharge.
DOWN: 1, Consider 2, Standard rose 3, Simpered 4, S'evE-re 5, Bally-rag 6, Turned down 7, Sa-lute-d 8, Me-thus-elah 11, Om-I-ts 16, Fill in 19, Peg 21, April showers 22, E-F-fort 23, Pitch black 24, I'll buy that 25, W-it 28, Endorses 29, Gorm-L-ess 30, Ro-set-tes 31, A-bolis-H 33, Dram-a 34, Stands.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Predatory 10, Humiliate 12, Rain 13, Bruise 14, Epistle 15, Drawbacks 17, Deathtrap 18, Dresser 19, Caddie 20, Echo 23, Dislodged 25, Presently 26, Vent 27, Tremor 29, Blossom 32, Sycophant 34, Unnatural 35, Apricot 36, Verbal 37, Apes 38, Exuberant 39, Still life.
DOWN: 1, Upgraded 2, Delicatessen 3, Boy racer 4, Lyrics 5, Shielded 6, Imperative 7, Sleight 8, Peremptory 11, Altar 16, Bishop 19, Cod 21, Catastrophic 22, Devout 23, Devastated 24, Gargantuan 25, Par 28, Motivate 29, Benjamin 30, Molasses 31, Species 33, Corfu 34, Unrest.

IN BRIEF

Chess for blind from Feb 8

▸ The Rotary Club of Bangalore will host the 19th AICFB National Chess Championship for the visually challenged, in collaboration with the All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB), from February 8-12 at the Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Manjunatha nominated

▸ Karnataka's KR Manjunatha has been nominated as one of the Blue Badge Umpires for the WTT Star Contender Table Tennis Championships, scheduled to be played in Chennai from February 10 to 15, reports DHNS.

MSRIT cagers win bronze

▸ Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) men's basketball team defeated KLU Andhra University 72-51 to win the bronze medal at the All India Inter-Collegiate Basketball tournament in Guntur, reports DHNS.

Result: Third-place match: MSRIT: 72 (Kanishka 25, Pranesh 12, Ranveer 15) bt KLU Andhra University: 51 (Preetham 25).

Mount Carmel emerge champs

▸ Mount Carmel College defeated BMS College for Women in the final 3-2 (15-25, 25-23, 27-29, 16-14) to win the St. John's Women's Inter-Collegiate Volleyball tournament, reports DHNS.

Lovlina, Sachin among 12 Indians to enter finals

LA NUCIA (SPAIN), PTI: Olympic bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain and World Cup gold winner Sachin Siwach notched up contrasting wins to storm into the finals along with 10 other Indians at the BOXAM Elite International here.

Twelve Indians, including eight women and four men, will compete for gold on the final day.

Borgohain (75kg) produced a commanding performance, registering a unanimous 5-0 win over Wales' Rosie Eccles.

India is assured of gold in the women's 54kg category with Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar setting up an all-Indian final against Poonam.

Preeti dominated France's Aya Hamdi with a 5-0 verdict, while Poonam outclassed Ivy-Jane Smith.

Among other Indian women to reach the finals were Manju Rani (48kg), Nitu Ghanghas (51kg), Priya (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) and Naina (80kg), all securing victories in their respective semifinal bouts. India added further finalists through dominant displays from Deepak (70kg), Akash (75kg), and Ankush (80kg).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 World Cup: New Zealand vs Afghanistan **(11 am)**, England vs Nepal **(3 pm)**, Sri Lanka vs Ireland **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

Ranji Trophy Quarters: Mumbai vs Karnataka, MP vs J&K, Jharkhand vs Uttarakhand, Bengal vs Andhra **(day 3, all 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brighton vs Crystal Palace **(7:30 pm)**, Liverpool vs Man City **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Deportivo vs Getafe **(6:30 pm)**, Athletic Club vs Levante **(8:45 pm)**, Atletico Madrid vs Real Betis **(11 pm)**, Valencia CF vs Real Madrid **(1:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Davis Cup Qualifiers: India vs Netherlands **(day 2, 2 pm)**. **LIVE** on **DD Sports.**

SHOOTING

Asian Rifle/Pistol C'Ships: 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team **(day 5, 10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Skipper SKY WARDS OFF EARLY JITTERS

India off to winning start after shock batting collapse vs US

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

Minnows United States of America briefly threatened to pull off the unthinkable, but the brilliance of skipper Suryakumar Yadav and the collective might of his bowlers ensured heavyweights India overcame the early jitters to kick off their title defence of the T20 World Cup on a successful note here on Saturday.

After a fired-up Americans, led superbly by medium pacer Shadley van Schalkwyk (4/25), brought the in-form Indian batting to its knees by reducing them to 77/6 in the 13th over, Suryakumar single-handedly scripted the resurrection with a typically powerful 49-ball 84 not out to power the hosts to a competitive 161/9 at the Wankhede Stadium.

Unlike most of the batters, who fluffed their lines, the Indian bowlers were spot-on. Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel brought their A game to the party, stifling the inexperienced Americans from the start and rarely loosening the noose to restrict them to 132/8 for a 29-run victory.

Although the bowlers got the job done for India rather smoothly in the end, the Men In Blue actually dug themselves into a deep hole with their over-aggressive approach backfiring against the disciplined American attack that came out with a plan and executed it perfectly on a balmy night. Opening pacer Ali Khan (1/13) and first-change van Schalkwyk did bowl in the hitting arc, but wonderful changes of pace and smart field placements rocked the Indians.

First to depart was Abhishek Sharma, who has been the main protagonist in India's template of destructive batting. Attempting his trademark lofted back-foot punch to a pitched-up one off his first ball, Abhishek holed out to Sanjay Krishnamurthy in the deep. Abhishek couldn't believe what he'd done.

But more unbelievable things happened in the final over of the Powerplay, where Schalkwyk bagged three wickets — Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, and Shivam Dube — to leave the Indians in a spot of bother at 46/4. Big-hitter Rinku Singh and Hardik Pandya, in a bid to counter-attack and unsettle the Americans, also perished in quick succession to leave India reeling at 77/6.

India's hopes of avoiding a catastrophic collapse all hinged on Suryakumar and his deputy Axar. The duo first steadied the ship with a cautious batting, but just when the momentum started to shift towards India Axar fell, bringing an end to their 41-run stand.

Then Suryakumar took it all upon himself to fire India past 150. Fresh off a Player of the Series performance in the just-concluded series against New Zealand, the 35-year-old started to throw the kitchen sink from the 16th over. The big difference came in the final over off Saurabh Netravalkar, the hero of the US' dream run in the last edition, who endured a bad day in the office by conceding 65 runs.

Suryakumar smashed the first ball, a good yorker, between point and backward point. The next ball, he unleashed his patented flick over deep fine leg that had captain Monank Patel offering some advice to his senior pro. It didn't work, as Suryakumar smashed another 6 and a 4 to turn the tide India's way.

SCORE BOARD

INDIA		USA	
Kishan c Milind b Schalkwyk (16b, 1x4, 2x6)	20	Gous c Varma b Siraj (9b, 1x6)	6
Abhishek c K'murthi b Khan (1b)	0	M'malla c Chakravarthy b Siraj (7b)	2
Varma c Patel b Schalkwyk (16b, 3x4, 1x6)	25	Monank c Dube b Singh (2b)	0
Suryakumar (not out) (49b, 10x4, 4x6)	84	Milind st Kishan b Chakravarthy (34b, 3x4, 1x6)	34
Dube c Netravalkar b Schalkwyk (1b)	0	K'murthi c Singh b Axar (31b, 1x4, 2x6)	37
Rinku c Milind b Mohsin (14b)	6	Ranjane lbw Siraj (31b, 1x4, 2x6)	37
Pandya c M'malla b Harmeet (6b, 1x4)	5	Harmeet c Siraj b Axar (1b)	0
Axar c Mohsin b Harmeet (11b, 2x4)	14	Mohsin c Varma b Singh (9b, 1x4)	8
Singh c Milind b Schalkwyk (6b, 1x4)	4	Schalkwyk (not out) (5b)	2
Chakravarthy (run out) (0b)	0	Extras (LB-3, W-3)	6
Extras (W-3)	3	**TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs)**	**132**
TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 20 overs)	**161**		

Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Abhishek), 2-45 (Kishan), 3-46 (Varma), 4-46 (Dube), 5-72 (Rinku), 6-77 (Pandya), 7-118 (Axar), 8-140 (Singh), 9-161 (Chakravarthy).

Bowling: Netravalkar 4-0-65-0, Khan 2-0-13-1, Schalkwyk 4-0-25-4 (w-1), Mohsin 4-0-16-1, Ranjane 2-0-16-0 (w-1), Harmeet 4-0-26-2 (w-1).

Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Gous), 2-11 (Monank), 3-13 (Mukkamalla), 4-71 (Milind), 5-98 (Krishnamurthi), 6-98 (Harmeet), 7-110 (Mohsin), 8-132 (Ranjane).

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-18-2 (w-1), Siraj 4-0-29-3 (w-1), Chakravarthy 4-0-24-1, Axar 4-0-24-2, Hardik 4-0-34-0.

Result: India won by 29 runs.
PoM: Suryakumar Yadav
India's next match: Vs Namibia (Feb 12, New Delhi).

India's Suryakumar Yadav sends one to the fence en route to his match-winning unbeaten 83 during their T20 World Cup opener against the USA at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Ill Bumrah misses opener

Ace India pacer Jasprit Bumrah missed the opening Group A clash against United States of America after being beset by illness, reports DHNS from Mumbai.

"Jasprit Bumrah was unavailable for selection for India's opening T20 World Cup fixture against the USA due to illness. The BCCI medical team is closely monitoring his condition," said a BCCI statement on Saturday.

Pak survive a Dutch scare

COLOMBO, PTI

Tailender Faheem Ashraf emerged as the hero for Pakistan, hammering 29 off 11 balls in a stunning late assault to snatch a dramatic three-wicket win over the Netherlands in the T20 World Cup opener here on Saturday.

Chasing 148 for a win, Pakistan were 90 for 2 at the halfway stage but lost wickets in a heap as they were 114/7 in 16.1 overs, needing 34 more runs.

It looked all but over for Pakistan at that stage but Ashraf, who was dropped on 7, had other plans.

Needing 29 runs from the last two overs, Ashraf hit three sixes and one four off Logan Van Beek and finished off the match with a four in the final over as Pakistan reached 148/7 in 19.3 overs.

O'Dowd dropped Ashraf when he was on seven in the second ball of the 19th over and perhaps that cost the match for the Dutch.

Pakistan's build-up was dominated by off-the-field matters after their Board decided to boycott the February 15 marquee match against India here, though they had beaten a depleted Australia 3-0 in the home T20I series.

At the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground which is hosting a T20I for the first time after 2010, Pakistan, the champions of the 2009 edition, huffed and puffed to win the match with three balls to spare.

Faheem Ashraf scored an unbeaten 11-ball 29 to help Pakistan edge the Netherlands by three wickets in their T20 World Cup opener on Saturday. AFP

Sahibzada Farhan top-scored with 47 off 31 balls while his opening partner Saim Ayub contributed 24 off 13 balls, but senior batter Babar Azam struggled with a 18-ball 15 with just one boundary. Captain Salman Agha made 12 off eight balls.

Pakistan were 90/2 at the halfway stage and looked like they would wrap up the match quickly. But Paul van Meekeren's two-wicket burst in the 12th over -- removing Farhan and Usman Khan (0) -- and dismissal of Azam in the 13th over put them on the backfoot.

From 98/2 at the end of the 11th over, Pakistan were 100/5 in 12.4 overs, losing three wickets in the space of 10 balls for the addition of just two runs. They had just one substantial partnership of 45 runs between Farhan and Azam for the third wicket.

All hell broke loose after the 15th over when they needed 37 runs from the last five overs. The Dutch tightened the screw with the experienced Kyle Klein removing Mohammad Nawaz for 6 in the 16th over.

Brief scores: Netherlands: 147 all out in 19.5 overs (Bas de Leede 30, Scott Edwards 37; Salman Mirza 3-24, Mohammad Nawaz 2-38, Abrar Ahmed 2-23, Saim Ayub 2-7) lt to Pakistan: 148/7 in 19.3 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 47, Faheem Ashraf 29 n.o.;Aryan Dutt 2-33, Paul van Meekeren 2-20). **Result:** Pakistan win by 3 wkts. **PoM:** Faheem Ashraf.

Afghan test awaits Kiwis in opener

CHENNAI, PTI

An underwhelming New Zealand will be hoping to rediscover their explosive game against a dangerous Afghanistan in the opening Group D match of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

The Kiwis went through a rather unstable preparatory phase ahead of the ICC showpiece, going 1-4 down to India, and Afghanistan are no less a threat.

The arrival of Tim Seifert and Finn Allen have given their top order a tad more firepower, but they need more substantial and consistent contributions from Rachin Ravindra, Mark Chapman and Devon Conway to capitalise on the starts given by the openers.

The sub-par effort by the middle-order was a huge missing link for New Zealand in the series against India as they struggled to force pace while setting or chasing.

An encore will have far reaching consequences for the Kiwis in a group that also has South Africa.

Therefore Mitchell Santner and company do not want a slip-up in the first match and land in a marshy place. Along with their batting, New Zealand will also hope for their bowlers to return to their thrifty selves after the series against India, where they proved expensive against a set of marauding home batters. Even though he played just one match against India, Lockie Ferguson showed the virtue of having extra pace and, more welcomingly, he seemed to have added some more variations to his craft.

Ferguson will have to play a lead role to keep Afghanistan on the back foot here, along with Santner and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi. But that's a job easier said than done. Afghanistan is a capable T20 outfit, evidenced in their rout of the West Indies in a bilateral series last week.

Their strength is in the presence of handy cricketers throughout the 11, and any of them can be a match-winner.

However, the bigger of that lot is Rashid Khan. The spinner no longer carries the mystery element as he once used to, but the will to compete has not diminished one bit, keeping him a foremost name in T20s. But Rashid will be stretched to merge the leadership duties with his primary strike bowler role, something he seemed to struggle with a bit in the past.

He will need copious help from other bowlers such as Mujeeb ur Rahman and Noor Ahmad to make an impact.

As such, spinners from both the teams can expect some assistance from the Chepauk pitch, particularly because the match starts at 11 am and there will not be any dew.

The Afghanistan batting will revolve around Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, and the consistent Sediqullah Atal too will be one to watch out for.

Kiwi skipper Mitchell Santner (left) and his Afghanistan counterpart Rashid Khan will eye a winning start in what seems to be a group of death. AFP/PTI PHOTOS

LIVE 11:00 AM, STAR SPORTS

Man United owners bid Rs 16k crore to buy RCB: Reports

RCB, from Jacket Page 2

They had failed in their quest in 2021 when Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants were sold by the BCCI.

Royal Challengers Sports Ltd, a subsidiary of Diageo and which owns and operates both the IPL and WPL teams, was reportedly valued at $2 billion by the owners who, according to sources, have hired a London-based consulting firm to evaluate the bids and submit a report by March 31.

The reports also claimed that as many as eight other parties have submitted non-binding bids for RCB, ranging between $1 billion and $1.8 billion. They include Poonawalla, Adani, JSW among others.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals have reportedly received five bids, which are at an advanced stage. The Glazers are also in the race to buy the Jaipur franchise.

Sources informed *DH* that RCB ownership was unlikely to be transferred to a potential successful buyer until the end of the 19th edition of the IPL which is likely to commence towards the end of March.

Explain Force Majeure: ICC to Pak

NEW DELHI, PTI

The ICC has sought an explanation from Pakistan on how the 'Force Majeure' clause can be invoked to justify the team's refusal to play the T20 World Cup match against India after the PCB tried to wriggle out of the situation by putting the onus on its government.

The ICC has asked the Pakistan Cricket Board to justify pulling out of one match while playing the remaining tournament on government instructions. A few days back, the PCB had officially written to the ICC about wanting to invoke the 'Force Majeure' clause and cited the government's tweet, banning the team from the February 15 clash in Colombo, as the reason.

But there is a glimmer of hope now as PCB has approached the ICC for deliberations, as per an ICC Director.

Having received the world body's formal communication, the PCB initiated further discussions.

The ICC is currently engaging with the board in a structured manner to explore possible resolutions, with a view that interest of the game must supersede unilateral action.

ICC seeks proof

The Pakistan government had announced that its team would boycott only the India fixture to support Bangladesh, who were shown the door for refusing to play in India due to their security concerns.

They will play the remaining matches.

The ICC has sent across a series of queries, asking the PCB to demonstrate what efforts it made to mitigate the situation, explore alternatives or seek exemptions before opting for non-participation. It is learnt that the global body also set out the conditions under which force majeure can legitimately be triggered, the evidences required for withdrawal from a scheduled match, and the wider sporting, commercial and governance consequences of such a step.

The ICC has also underlined the damages it could potentially claim if the invocation is found invalid.

In its reply, the ICC has pointed out that selective participation strikes at the core premise of a global tournament and could expose the PCB to breach-of-contract claims as well as disciplinary action under ICC regulations.

Shepherd 'tricks after Hetmyer turns WI saviour

KOLKATA, PTI: Shimron Hetmyer struck a counter-attacking fifty before Romario Shepherd unleashed a stunning five-wicket burst including a hat-trick as two-time champions West Indies began their T20 World Cup campaign with a comfortable 35-run win over Scotland in their group C fixture here on Saturday.

Back at the venue where they had lifted their second T20 World Cup title a decade ago, West Indies were made to work early before Hetmyer's 36-ball 64 (6x6, 2x4) lifted them to a competitive 182/5.

In reply, Guyanese pacer Shepherd blew away the lower order with a sensational spell of 5/20 to bowl out Scotland for 147 in 18.5 overs.

Shepherd finished the game in dramatic fashion as he ripped through the tail with four wickets in five deliveries to complete his T20I hat-trick.

Brief scores: West Indies: 182/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 35, Shimron Hetmyer 64, Sherfane Rutherford 26; Brad Currie 2-23) bt Scotland: 147 all out in 18.5 overs (Richie Berrington 42, Tom Bruce 35; Jason Holder 3-30, Romario Shepherd 5-20). **Result:** WI won by 35 runs. **PoM:** Shimron Hetmyer.

Romario Shepherd. PTI

Undercooked Sri Lanka eye solid start

COLOMBO, PTI: An undercooked Sri Lanka would look to put behind a disappointing preparation and dish out a solid effort when they take on an unpredictable Ireland in their opening Group B match of the T20 World Cup in front of home fans here on Sunday.

Sri Lanka didn't have the best of preparations for the showpiece they are co-hosting with India, as they were whitewashed 0-3 by England in a home T20 series, which was the final tune-up to the tournament.

And the islanders would now look to learn lessons from that drubbing and take corrective steps.

In the series against England, both their batting and bowling were found wanting under pressure situations.

LIVE 7:00 PM

England gear up for Nepal challenge

MUMBAI, PTI: An embattled Harry Brook will hope England hit the top gear and the focus shifts from the incident at a Wellington club to cricket when the two-time champions take on Nepal in their T20 World Cup opener, here on Sunday.

Brook is at the helm of a formidable England side which has had a successful run in the T20I format, but the talk around the camp has also been around the incident at the nightclub where the English captain was reportedly involved in an altercation with a bouncer during a night out in the pre-Ashes tour.

The England captain fielded a question related to the incident during the Captains' Press Conference along with his peers, while all-rounder Will Jacks too had to confront those in their pre-match media commitment here on Friday.

"I wasn't actually in New Zealand, so I don't know anything about it. It's just one of those things that he obviously made a wrong decision and he accepted that" Jacks said.

England have had a perfect build-up to the World Cup and will be one of the teams to beat .

LIVE 3:00 PM

Duke of Tuscany wins feature race

KOLKATA RESULTS

Pesi Shroff-trained Duke Of Tuscany, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Queen Elizebeth II Memorial Cup, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Saturday.

1. Contralto Handicap - 1100M: Godsend Divine (Mrs G Alford) Farid Ansari 1; A Wink Annda Smile (Azharuddin) 2; Diamond Gold (MS Deora) 3; Phenomenal Lady (Vinod Shinde) 4; Not Run: Star Pride. Wb: 1-1/2, Shd, 1L. T: 1:07.63. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Blazing Black.
2. Philippines Cup - 1600M: Mindful (BE Saldanha) Suraj Narredu 1; Aeropoli (Trevor Patel) 2; Zarak (Imran Chisty) 3; 4; Not Run: Natural Grace. Wb: 1-3/4L, Dist. T: 1:38.32. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Mindful.
3. Ich Dien Handicap - 1100M: Merlet (Ketan Wakkar) Imran Chisty 1; Lavish Girl (Farid Ansari) 2; Cortado (Trevor Patel) 3; Chililady (MS Deora) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1, 3/4L. T: 1:06.10. TB: S Waheed. Fav: Resplendence.
4. Green Sari Handicap - 1400M: Xanthe (Aryama Sundaram) Trevor Patel 1; Cash N Run (Vishal Bunde) 2; Victorious Omen (Imran Chisty) 3; Oh My Darling (Varun) 4; Wb: Nk, 4-1/2, 3L. T: 1:24.28. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Xanthe.
5. Queen Elizebeth II Memorial Cup-2400M: Duke Of Tuscany (KN Dhunjibhoy) Suraj Narredu 1; Golden Kingdom (MS Deora) 2; Main Street (Trevor Patel) 3; High Command (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 7-1/2, 1-1/4, 1-1/2L. T: 2:38.28. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Duke Of Tuscany.
6. Mamma's Mink Handicap (Div-I) - 1400M: Enchanting (Ram Shroff) Suraj Narredu 1; Adeya (RS Bhati) 2; Fortune Warrior (Gaurav Singh) 3; Sporting Trainer (Varun) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 3/4, Nk. T: 1:26.59. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Enchanting.
7. Mamma's Mink Handicap (Div-II) - 1400M: Bandukwali (Cheriyan Abraham) Vishal Bunde 1; Amaze And Inspire (Trevor Patel) 2; Rosalia (MS Deora) 3; Wonderful (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: Hd, 1/2, 6-1/4L. T: 1:26.23. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Amaze And Inspire.

Bengaluru Dividends:
I race: Rs 126w; 33, 81, 15p; Fc: Rs 7,428; Q: Rs 4,191; Shp: Rs 631; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 17,004 & 2,915; Ex: Rs 51,682 c/o).
II race: Rs 11w; Fc: Rs 13; Shp: Rs 13;
III race: Rs 91w; 32, 21, 16p; Fc: Rs 1,342; Q: Rs 626; Shp: Rs 61; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 3,683 & 986; Ex: Rs 51,274 & 21,974.
IV race: Rs 15w; 14, 13, 22p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 134 & 62; Ex: Rs 798 & 383.
V race: Rs 12w; 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 20; Q: Rs 17; Shp: Rs 16; Thp: Rs 17; Tri: Rs 22 & 12.
VI race: Rs 18w; 12, 82, 13p; Fc: Rs 655; Q: Rs 806; Shp: Rs 322; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 2,354 & 428; Ex: Rs 71,561 (c/o).
VII race: Rs 30w; 12, 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 66; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 161 & 138; Ex: Rs 1,214 & 404.
I Jackpot: Rs 1,230 (396). **Runner-up:** Rs 120 (1743). **I Treble:** Rs 158 (423).
II Treble: Rs 90 (1003).

Christophany favourite for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Imtiaz Sait-trained Christophany, to be ridden by Akshay Kumar, will garner the maximum support in the Mathardas Goculdas Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Sunday. The races start from 2:30 pm.
1. Sonny Brar Trophy - 2000M: Golden Dancer 1, Endurance 2.
2. Mathardas Goculdas Trophy - 1400M: Christophany 1, Ultimo 2, Irish Gold 3.
3. Nadir & Yawar Rashid Trophy - 1400M: Bishop 1, Amazing Ruler 2, Wind Dancer 3.
4. RM & Rukmani Goculdas Million - 1200M: Starseed 1, Silver Strike 2, Mila 3.
5. NM Irani Trophy - 1200M: Paloma 1, Storm Majesty 2, Hermanus 3.
6. Nawabzada Rashiduzaffar Khan Trophy - 1600M: Bravo Zulu 1, Absolute Gorgeous 2, Agatha 3.
7. SA Wahid Plate - 1000M: Viennoise 1, AR First Star 2, Precioso 3.
Day's best: Golden Dancer. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Saurabh leads India's clean sweep in 50m pistol final

NEW DELHI, PTI: 2022 Asian Games Champion Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal in the men's 50m pistol event as his compatriots Kamljeet Chaudhary and Ravinder Singh took the silver and bronze respectively in a clean sweep for the hosts in the event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships here on Saturday.

Saurabh Chaudhary

Saurabh, who won his fourth Asian Championships gold, shot a total of 563 (including 12 inner circle shots) to clinch the top spot two points ahead of Kamaljeet, who shot the inner circle 16 times.

The trio's total score also led to gold for India in team event.

Olympian Elavenil Valarivan held her nerve to fend off a strong challenge from Japan's Misaki Nobata and clinch the women's 10m air rifle gold, while Meghana Sajjanar also climbed the podium with a bronze.

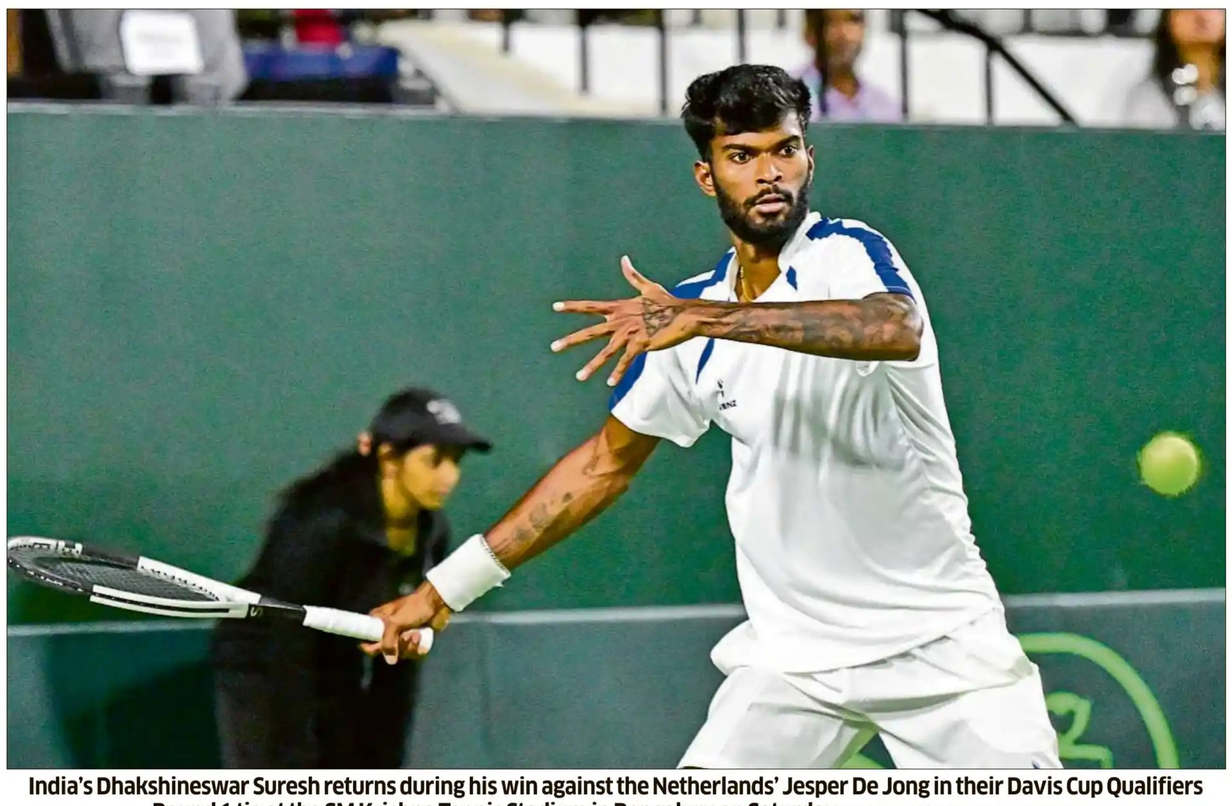
The trio of Elavenil, Arya Borse and Meghana Sajjanar stood atop the podium in the team event.

TENNIS DAVIS CUP QUALIFIERS

Dhakshin delivers a punch

India No. 2 wins after Nagal loses to even tie 1-1 against the Netherlands

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS


India's Dhakshineswar Suresh returns during his win against the Netherlands' Jesper De Jong in their Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 1 tie at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR P S

Dhakshineswar Suresh's underdog tag with a game largely unknown to the opponent were the odds India were heavily betting on. And the young lad took great pride in discharging that responsibility.

The 25-year-old Madurai man lifted India's spirits after scoring an important win to help hosts level the proceedings against the Netherlands at 1-1 on the opening day of the Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 1 tie at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Saturday.

Taking to court for the second rubber after Sumit Nagal's defeat in the opening singles, the 6-feet-5 Dhakshineswar unleashed a mixed bag containing his trademark big serves, thumping forehand winners and sharp backhand slices to score a straight-set 6-4, 7-5 win over world No. 88 and Dutch No. 1 Jesper De Jong.

The 457th-ranked Indian, began by losing the first point on serve but won five games as the server and broke De Jong in the ninth game to close out the first set comfortably.

The Dutchman was struggling to keep up as Dhakshineswar was focussed on building on the momentum in the second set. Doing enough to guard their service games until 6-5 with the Indian leading, De Jong's back-to-back double faults gave the home boy a window to break his opponent in the 13th game and secure a rather dominating victory.

A few hours earlier, Nagal going down to the Netherlands' No. 2 Guy Den Ouden turned out to be a two-hour 30-minute 'so near yet so far' 0-6, 6-4, 3-6 ordeal for the Indian.

The 28-year-old Nagal thrives on getting riled up to unleash his inner beast. But for the first hour of his match against Den Ouden, the Indian looked more disappointed in himself and distracted from his own thoughts.

Losing the first set 0-6 had surely done enough to rile him up. Now it was time to use that anger constructively to claw himself back into the contest.

For, Den Ouden, on the other side of the net, was controlling the match just by keeping the ball in play.

Coming out of a bathroom break, the Indian switched on his catch-up mode. Holding serve for the first time in the match, Nagal's unforced errors began to reduce with the serves sharper than they were in the opening set. A break in the seventh put Nagal ahead 4-3 before he held his next two service games to take the match to the decider.

Sensing the home hero looking more at ease, Den Ouden began the third by being his aggressive best. Injecting more pace to his groundstrokes, the visitor broke the second game to take a 2-0 lead. Falling behind once again and needing a lot of catching up to do, Nagal held the fourth game to close in at 1-3. Nagal's patience and tough returns paid dividends when the Indian broke in the seventh game to inch closer 3-4. But with an important hold in the eighth faltered, Nagal surrendered to Den Ouden who did enough to hang in when it mattered most.

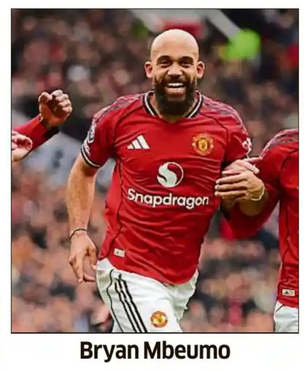
It was tie predicted to be a close affair. And it sure is heading in that direction with the lone doubles and two reverse singles slated on Sunday.

Results (day 1): India vs Netherlands 1-1 (Sumit Nagal lt to Guy Den Ouden 0-6, 6-4, 3-6; Dhakshineswar Suresh bt Jesper De Jong 6-4, 7-5).

Viktor lifts Arsenal further clear at top

United slay 10-man Spurs at home to remain at 4th spot

LONDON, AFP


Bryan Mbeumo

Arsenal moved nine points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 victory against Sunderland, while Tottenham boss Thomas Frank faced renewed calls for his sacking after a 2-0 defeat at Manchester United on Saturday.

Mikel Arteta's side went ahead in the 42nd minute at the Emirates Stadium as Martin Zubimendi fired past Sunderland goalkeeper Robin Roefs at his near post.

Viktor Gyokeres sealed Arsenal's second successive league win with a 66th-minute strike before the Swede netted again in stoppage time.

The Gunners, who haven't won a trophy since the 2020 FA Cup, are chasing their first English title in 22 years.

After three successive runners-up finishes in the Premier League, including blowing significant leads at the top in 2023 and 2024, the north Londoners finally look set to end their title drought.

Arsenal also beat Chelsea in midweek to book a League Cup final date with Manchester City at Wembley on March 22.

Results: Arsenal: 3 (Zubimendi 42nd, Gyokeres 66th, 90+3rd) bt Sunderland: 0; Bournemouth: 1 (Rayan 55th) drew with Aston Villa: 1 (Rogers 22nd); Burnley: 0 lt to West Ham: 2 (Summerville 13th, Castellanos 26th); Fulham: 1 (Mykolenko 18th OG) lt to Everton: 2 (Dewsbury-Hall 75th, Leno 83rd OG); Manchester United: 2 (Mbeumo 38th, Fernandes 81st) bt Tottenham: 0; Wolves: 1 (Arokodare 54th) lt to Chelsea: 3 (Palmer 13th P, 35th P, 38th).

Barca beat Mallorca to extend lead

BARCELONA, AFP: Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal scored as Barcelona eased to a comfortable 3-0 win over Mallorca on Saturday to move four points clear at the top of La Liga.

The champions extended the gap to Real Madrid , with Marc Bernal also on target late on at the partially reopened Camp Nou stadium.

Meanwhile a late goal from Raul Garcia de Haro gave Osasuna a 2-1 win over Celta Vigo in La Liga and dealt the home side a first defeat at Estadio Abanca-Balaidos since November.

Results: Barcelona: 3 (Lewandowski 29th, Yamal 61st, Bernal 83rd) bt Mallorca: 0; Celta Vigo: 1 (Iglesias 53rd P) lt to Osasuna: 2 (Budimir 35th, Garcia 79th).

Mumbai hit back to wrest initiative

G KRISHNAN
MUMBAI

Mayank Agarwal waged a lonely battle with a valiant 92 as Karnataka crumbled to 173 all out in their first innings. PTI FILE PHOTO

Karnataka batsmen, barring Mayank Agarwal, floundered a golden opportunity to take a sizable first innings in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at the MCA-BKC ground on Saturday.

Resuming Day Two at 110/2, just 10 runs behind Mumbai's 120 with eight first-innings wickets in hand, Karnataka were made to work hard by the Mumbai medium-pace quartet of captain Shardul Thakur, Mohit Avasthi, Tushar Deshpande and Suryansh Shedge.

The visitors could manage only a 53-run first-innings lead after being bowled out for 173. Thereafter, Mumbai batted far better than they did in the first innings, taking stumps at 189/2 with 136-run lead.

With the pitch playing livelier in the morning session, just like it did on Friday when the Karnataka speedsters struck repeatedly, it was Mumbai's pay-back time. The early morning moisture made the ball talk and troubled the batsmen.

Mumbai bowled out Karnataka 23 minutes before lunch, taking the remaining eight wickets for an additional 63 runs, Avasthi and Deshpande finishing with 4/27 and 4/33, respectively.

However, it was Thakur who struck first on the day, dismissing Karun Nair, who edged to Yashasvi Jaiswal in the slips before the deficit was wiped out. And, with the scores level, Karnataka lost two more, Smaran R and Shreyas Gopal, off Avasthi for naughts.

If it was opener Akhil Heward-kar who survived in trying circumstances with the bat for Mumbai on the opening day, it was his counterpart Agarwal for the visitors. Though he missed out on a hundred by eight runs, he ensured a decent lead.

Since being relieved of captaincy, Agarwal seems to be enjoying his batting. In the first six matches as captain this season, Agarwal averaged 33.11 from nine innings, scoring 298 runs. In the last three innings, he has scored 46 and 53 in a winning cause against Punjab, and a crucial knock here, adding 38 to his overnight 54.

Agarwal showed no hurry in scoring and curbed his attacking instincts, not playing a single false stroke until the one that led to his downfall. After battling into his 90s, he went on the offensive against Deshpande. He failed to connect a pre-determined hoick on 92 but off the next ball, edged to second slip Siddhesh Lad to be eighth out and Karnataka 48 in front.

It was just another five runs before Karnataka folded up, Prasidh Krishna and Shikhar Shetty cleaned up by Deshpande and Avasthi, respectively, for their fourth scalps.

In their second innings, having the luxury of batting when the pitch dried considerably under the sun, Jaiswal and Herwadkar raised 77, the Test opener early on hooking Prasidh while driving forcefully through the off-side. Herwadkar, too, played his strokes, driving through cover and pulling as Mumbai made an earnest attempt to win back the contest from Karnataka.

However, the two well-set openers falling at the same score in the space of six deliveries – Herwadkar (33) run out by a direct throw by Kaverappa from fine leg going for a second run and Jaiswal (36) stumped off Shreyas Gopal – gave Karnataka the breakthroughs.

But Akash Anand (53 batting) and Musheer Khan (49 batting) ground the Karnataka attack with their 112-run unbroken stand for the third wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai (I Innings): 120 all out
Karnataka (I Innings O/n: 110/2): KL Rahul c Kotian b Avasthi 28, Mayank Agarwal c Lad b Deshpande 92, Devdutt Padikkal c Anand b Shedge 17, Karun Nair c Jaiswal b Thakur 4, Smaran R c Anand b Avasthi 0, Shreyas Gopal c Anand b Avasthi 0, Kruthik Krishna c Anand b Deshpande 9, Vidyadhar Patil c M Khan b Deshpande 4, Shikhar Shetty b Avasthi 4, Prasidh Krishna b Deshpande 0, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 4. Extras (LB-9, W-1, NB-1) 11. **TOTAL (all out, 47.1 overs) 173.**
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-88. 3-119, 4-120, 5-120, 6-156, 7-164, 8-168, 9-168.
Bowling: Shardul Thakur 9-2-52-1, Mohit Avasthi 15.1-4-27-4, Tushar Deshpande 11-3-33-4, Suryansh Shedge 8-0-37-1, Shams Mulani 4-0-15-0.
Mumbai (II Innings): Yashasvi Jaiswal st K Krishna b Shreyas 36, Akhil Herwadkar (run out) 33, Akash Anand (batting) 53, Musheer Khan (batting) 49. Extras (B-1, LB-10, W-6, NB-1) 18. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 52 overs) 189**.
Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-77.
Bowling: Vidyadhar Patil 12-2-52-0, Prasidh Krishna 11-1-37-0, Vidwath Kaverappa 7-0-36-0, Shreyas Gopal 13-2-35-1, Shikhar Shetty 9-2-18-0.

Other quarterfinals: Brief scores: At Indore: Jammu & Kashmir: 194 all out & 84/5 in 26 overs (Abdul Samad 32; Kuldeep Sen 2-25, Venkatesh Iyer 2-10) vs Madhya Pradesh: (O/n: 28/0):152 all out in 53.4 overs (Yash Dubey 58; Aqib Nabi 7-40, Sunil Kumar 3-47).
At Kolkata: Andhra: (O/n: 264/6): 295 all out in 88.4 overs (Srikar Bharat 47, Shaik Rasheed 46, Ricky Bhui 83, Nitish Kumar Reddy 33; Mukesh Kumar 5-66, Akash Deep 4-79) vs Bengal: 199/5 in 63 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 112 n.o.; KV Sasikanth 2-43).
At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand: 235 all out in 85 overs (Sharandeep Singh 26, Virat Singh 47, Aditya Singh 83; Janmejay Joshi 4-46, Aditya Rawat 3-39, Mayank Mishra 3-50) vs Uttarakhand: (O/n: 4/0): 282/5 in 87 overs (Avneesh Sudha 64, Kunal Chandela 68, Jagadeesha Suchith 60 n.o.; Saurabh Rawat 32).

Tushar, Mansi emerge senior singles champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Tushar Suveer and Uttar Pradesh's Mansi Singh were crowned champions in the men's and women's singles categories respectively in the Yonex-Sunrise All-India Senior-ranking badminton tournament at the Karnataka Badminton Association here on Saturday.

Tushar, the eighth seed in the men's section, hardly broke a sweat during his convincing 21-12, 21-10 win over Alap Mishra in the final.

The women's singles final, however, saw a different script, as the top seed Mansi Singh was pushed to the distance in her three-game 21-16, 16-21, 21-10 victory over Shruti Mundada.

Karnataka's Pavan S and Punith S took home the top honours in the men's doubles event, beating Kamal Krishnan S and Sankarprasad Udayakumar 21-16, 21-13.

In the women's doubles final, Aditi Bhatt and Shravani Walekar produced a clinical display to outclass Amrutha P and Likhita Srivastava in straight games. The Indo-Uttarakhand and Maharashtra pair dominated the opening game 21-9 and maintained control in the second to close the contest 21-13.

The mixed doubles final saw Nitin Kumar and Likhita Srivastava beat Aaryan Sapiah and Ashwini Ponnappa 19-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Results: Finals: Men: Singles: (prefix denotees seeding, Karnataka unless mentioned): 8-Tushar Suveer bt Alap Mishra (MP) 21-12, 21-10.
Doubles: Pavan S/Punith S bt Kamal Krishnan S/Sankarprasad Udayakumar (Ker) 21-16, 21-13.
Women: Singles: 1-Mansi Singh (UP) bt Shruti Mundada (Mah) 21-16, 16-21, 21-10.
Doubles: Aditi Bhatt (Utr)/Shravani Walekar (Mah) bt Amrutha P/Likhita Srivastava (Del) 21-9, 21-13.
Mixed Doubles: Nitin Kumar/Likhita Srivastava (Del) bt Aaryan Sapiah (Har)/Ashwini Ponnappa (PSPB) 19-21, 21-17, 21-16.

From left: Karnataka's Tushar Suveer (men's singles), Pavan S and Punith S (men's doubles) pose with their spoils after winning their respective events at the Senior Ranking Badminton tournament in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Pacers script Karnataka's fightback

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka bowlers, led by Yashovardhan Parantap (4/64) and ably supported by Samit Dravid (2/21), scripted a brilliant fightback before their batters struggled again on the second day of their Col CK Nayudu Elite Group D fixture against hosts Uttarakhand in Ramnagar.

At stumps, Karnataka were 146/6 in 40 overs, leading Uttarakhand by 230 runs, with Manvanth Kumar L (8 not out) and Samit (0 not out) at the crease as the game remained in the balance.

Earlier, Uttarakhand began the day with the primary goal of consolidating their opening day's efforts, but were rocked early when Manvanth Kumar L sent Aditya Naithani for 20 in the first over of the morning session.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 244 all out & 146/6 in 40 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 31, Dhruv Prabhakar 48, Harshil Dharmani 35; Devansh 4-28) vs Uttarakhand: (O/n: 43/0): 160 all out in 61 overs (Negi 26, Nishu Patel 36; Yashovardhan Parantap 4-64, Samit Dravid 2-21).

Shishira century studs K'taka victory vs UP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shishira A Gowda scored a century in Karnataka's 17-run win over Uttar Pradesh in their opening Elite Group A match of the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy at the Sansora Cricket Ground in Rajkot on Friday.

Shishira's 128-ball 119, laced with 19 fours, took Karnataka to 282/6 in 50 overs while Shubha Satheesh also contributed 57 off 95 balls.

In response, UP fell short at 265/9 in 50 overs despite a century from Muskan Malik (115 off 120) as Saloni P (3/55), BG Tejashwini (2/30) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/66) delivered repeated blows.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 282/6 in 50 overs (Shubha Satheesh 57, Shishira A Gowda 119, Shreya S Chavan 25; Archana Devi 3-64, Shilpi Yadav 2-50) bt UP: 265/9 in 50 overs (Muskan Malik 115, Nishi Kashyap 40, Archana Devi 46 n.o.; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2-66, BG Tejashwini 2-30, Saloni P 3-55). **Karnataka's next match:** Baroda (Feb 8).

Rahul's fiery spell destroys Rajajinagar Colts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rahul Shetty took a six-for as Mathikere Cricket Club comfortably won by seven wickets in a paltry chase of 58 runs against Rajajinagar Colts in the KSCA Group I-V Division League cum knockout tournament for the JB Mallaradhya Shield.

Rahul's 6/7 spell bowled out Colts for a mere 57 runs in 16.4 overs while Mathikere batters chased down the target in 12.5 overs at the expense of three wickets.

Brief scores: Rajajinagar Colts: 57 all out in 16.4 overs (Rahul Shetty 6-7, Chandru Aiyanna 3-13) lt to Mathikere CC: 59/3 in 12.5 overs (Sanjay SS 28, Shishir 2-13).
Dooravani Cricketers (2): 259/7 in 50 overs (Md Ruman Choudhury 52, Suresh Ramanjunappa 54, Amruth S 45m Sampath Kumar M 26, Harsha B 36 n.o.; Shaurya Tiwari 2-38) bt Deccan United: 187 all out in 45.1 overs (Panshul Sharma 84, Abhijith Karanth KN 44; Raghuveer S 4-52, Suresh Ramanjunappa 3-31).
Karnataka Youth CA, Malur: 262 all out in 46.3 overs (Sagar MJ 71, Rakshith Kumar R 69, Srujan Rajesh 50; Sagar N 3-51, Yeshwanth K 2-24, Suhas G 2-50) bt New National CC: 181 all out in 44.2 overs (Arawinth Kumar 34, Sharath Kumar MB 32, Suhas G 33; Pradeep 4-40, Pratyush Chauhan 2-7, Ullas BM 2-25).
Young Boys Cricket Association: 270 all out in 40.2 overs (Shahil Yadav 87 n.o., Rahul Dubey 64, Hari Shankar S 32; K Vaishnav 3-60, Bhagesh D Babar 3-47, Dhruv S Akki 2-50, Adarsh Shenoy 2-37) bt Anglo Youth CA: 187 all out in 43.1 overs (Aditya Rishi BM 51, Dheeraj M Reddy 34; Hari Shankar S 3-28, Someshwar Navallimath 2-36).
YMCA CC (1): 147 all out in 33 overs (Karan 64; Supreeth SS 2-21, Harshith HP 2-36, Ujjwal R 2-16) lt to SSK CC: 150/3 in 15 overs (Ranganatha KS 77, Sapthagiri Khoday 25; Pavan KM 2-36).

Von Allmen wins downhill for first gold

Franjo von Allmen of Switzerland in action during the men's downhill event at the Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina on Saturday. REUTERS

BORMIO (ITALY), AFP

Switzerland's Franjo von Allmen scorched to victory in the men's Olympic downhill in Bormio on Saturday, winning the first gold medal of the Milan-Cortina Winter Games.

Reigning world champion Von Allmen hit speeds of 145km/h (90mph) to clock a winning time of 1min 51.61sec down the testing Stelvio course.

The 24-year-old Swiss racer broke the hearts of the home nation, finishing ahead of the Italian pair of Giovanni Franzoni, who was 0.20sec behind, and Dominik Paris (+0.50).

Pre-race favourite Marco Odermatt, Von Allmen's Swiss teammate, could only finish fourth.

"It feels like a movie," Von Allmen said. "My secret is to enjoy skiing! I was really relaxed in the morning and tried to keep the good feelings... Skiing must be fun.

"We all skied because it was fun. It has to be in the foreground, be it skiing or any other profession, because you have to do it every day."

Franzoni, also 24, said the nerves had kicked in at the start.

"I saw the runs from the Swiss guys, they were getting better and better. I thought it would be hard to beat them, but I skied really well," he said.

"It's cool to be part of a new generation of alpine skiers, cool to be on podium."

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

Taxpayer and the missing trust: Can fairer rules help?

TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
@tcartca

The Finance Minister's lament in her Budget speech that India has too few taxpayers highlights a deeper truth about State capacity. In a country of 1.4 billion, only 8.09 crore income tax returns were filed in FY 2023-24 – just 6.7% of the population. Of these, nearly 4.9 crore reported zero taxable income. Even among filers, most do not pay. It is tempting to conclude that Indians simply dislike paying tax. But the problem is not only behavioural. It is structural and equally about what the system quietly permits.

India's labour market remains dominated by informality. Millions earn low, irregular or seasonal incomes in agriculture, construction, small trade, and services. These are hard to measure and tax. As a result, the net tilts towards those easiest to see: salaried employees. Tax deducted at source leaves them no choice. In practice, India's income tax becomes a tax on visibility. The other half of the story is more uncomfortable: multiple tax shelters shrink the effective base even among those who can pay. This is why the Finance Minister's lament can sound unfair to honest taxpayers. Many citizens do not object to paying taxes; they object to being the ones with the fewest escape routes.

Take a common example. A car purchased in the name of a company is claimed as a business asset, with depreciation, fuel, repairs, and insurance written off. Yet it is used as the family car. Compare this with a salaried taxpayer buying a car from post-tax income, with no deductions. The same consumption attracts very different burdens. This pattern extends to travel, gadgets, mobile bills, and restaurant spending – all routed through business accounts under weak rules and weaker enforcement. Over time, it creates a two-tier culture: one in which tax is deducted automatically, and another in which tax is shaped by accounting creativity.

Family-run businesses split income among relatives to stay in lower tax brackets. Presumptive taxation, designed to simplify compliance, is often misused by enterprises that are no longer small. And, most politically sensitive of all, agricultural income remains outside the tax net. Even if justified for small farmers, the exemption creates space for high-income individuals to avoid scrutiny. Together, these practices erode credibility. In taxation, credibility is not a side issue; it is the foundation.

To its credit, the government has expanded the tax net. The CBDT reported that the number of taxpayers rose to 10.4 crore in 2023-24 from 5.7 crore in 2014-15. Technology, pre-filled returns, and easier filing helped. But the deeper question is whether this expansion feels fair. If filings rise but shelters remain open, trust will not keep pace. The easy temptation is to squeeze the visible base further – lower thresholds, reduce deductions, extract more from the salaried middle class. It is administratively simple but economically and politically unwise. It weakens consumption, deepens resentment, and pushes the system towards a narrow, high-pressure model.

A better approach is fairness-enhancing reform. The government should simply disallow personal-type expenses such as car running costs, restaurant bills, and gadgets like cell phones, when claimed as business deductions. Closing this loophole would immediately make the system feel fairer to salaried taxpayers who have no such escape routes. Another step towards fairness would be to adopt a common tax calculation format for firms, partnerships and companies. Today, the differences in rules allow scope for arbitrage and creative accounting. A uniform format would reduce loopholes, simplify compliance, and reassure taxpayers that the system does not privilege one type of entity over another.

Enforcement must also be less discretionary and more predictable. Fear of scrutiny discourages formalisation among small businesses. India's taxpayer base will expand meaningfully only when formal jobs expand across a wider spread-out geography.

The Finance Minister is right to worry about India's small number of taxpayers. But the way forward is not to scold citizens into compliance. It is to build a system where the burden is evenly shared, shelters are harder to exploit, and honest taxpayers feel the rules apply to everyone. A tax system cannot demand trust; it must earn it.

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

A Republic in conversation

I was honoured to be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations in my residential community. Speaking to neighbours, families, and children on that morning prompted a deceptively simple question: What is India? Is India land? Or is it a feeling? Is it memory and story, sacrifice and identity? History? Or language? Is India its gods? It is all of that. And it is its people.

India, as a Republic, is best understood as a conversation across generations. Even within many Indian families, different conversational strands coexist. There are those who questioned society through ideas and words, and those who built, administered, and maintained the everyday machinery that allowed society to function. Reformers and practitioners. Thinkers and doers.

In my family, that duality was visible. On one side were writers and social reformers who believed that reason and questioning were essential to progress. My great-grandfather, Tripuraneni Ramaswamy, wrote poetry when India was not free. His words were not decorative. They were meant to instil resolve. In one poem, he wrote that a young person who has girded himself never turns back, and one who has given his word never runs away. These lines predate the Constitution, yet speak the same ethical language of responsibility and commitment.

Writing before and after independence, my grandfather, Tripuraneni Gopichand, spoke about those without a voice, social misfits, and the economically left behind. He questioned, through his characters and psychoanalytical narratives, what is it that constitutes progress and inclusion. On the other side of my family were engineers, family-trained civil contractors, and administrators who collected taxes and kept accounts. Their contribution was quieter and less visible, but no less important. They built roads, houses, canals, and institutions that outlasted them. Together, these strands reflect an essential aspect of India. The Republic has been shaped as much by those who asked uncomfortable questions as by those who ensured daily life did not collapse.

Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
@Gkatragadda

Religion, borders, migration, ancestry, and tribes together complicate the idea of India in productive ways. India is one of the few societies where almost every major religion has lived side by side for centuries, making faith a source of meaning and moral order as well as contestation. The Republic neither erased religion nor elevated one above the other, choosing instead a demanding balance between freedom of belief and the primacy of citizenship, a balance that requires constant restraint and renewal.

India's political borders, shaped by colonial administration and the trauma of Partition, sit uneasily against far older civilisational flows in which languages, cuisines, customs, pilgrimages, and kinship networks crossed frontiers with ease. Migration has been a constant, long preceding passports and visas, and remains a powerful driver of economic and social change. Even contemporary debates on ancestry and genetics, framed through ANI and ASI populations, point not to purity but to repeated migrations and admixtures, reminding us that India was shaped by encounter and assimilation rather than a single origin story. Tribal communities deepen this understanding, many predating classical civilisations and carrying distinct relationships with land, language, and belief. Independent India's journey shows how these complexities have been managed, sometimes well and sometimes imperfectly.

It is worth renewing the Republic's conversation in practical ways – mentoring a teenager, building local capability through startups and skills, or amplifying voices otherwise unheard. Citizenship, after all, is where belonging meets duty.

For many Indians, belonging has always been layered. My country is where my tribe is, and my country is also where my duty calls. India has endured because it has made space for both: rootedness and obligation, identity and responsibility, belonging and service. India is a plurality, undefined. Let us keep it that way.

THIS AND THAT

A sweet turn in diabetes treatment

Something significant has changed in the way the medical establishment looks at diabetes. For long described as a chronic, progressive disease with complications affecting all aspects of life, diabetes is now seen as a condition that can be reversed.

On diagnosis, patients used to get some medication, and dire predictions about what could lie in store down the years. Some of the bleakness is now being dispelled by newly introduced treatment protocols. Doctors are still wary of the term 'cure', but they are talking about remission, a state where blood glucose returns to normal levels without medication. The focus has shifted to lifestyle – diet, sleep, and exercise. You can imagine what a game-changer this is – at least when it comes to how diabetics imagine their future years. They are being offered a way out of a life sentence. Behave, and you will be let off based on your good conduct!

It is jokingly said that two kinds of medicine are common in India – herbal and verbal. As one who has heard the most outlandish solutions to diabetes, I can tell you they raise hopes quickly and crash them equally quickly. And we have no dearth of snake oil salesmen when it comes to problems that conventional medicine has no answers for.

Around 2004, I began to scour the Net for medical literature on diabetes, and continued my search for at least five years. I was looking for wisdom that was derived from experience and not textbooks. Among the many things that came my way, the story of Dr Richard Bernstein (1934-2025) caught my attention the most.

An engineer by training, Bernstein was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in the 1940s, when he was a child. Despite following his doctors' instructions diligently, his condition deteriorated, and he was plagued by complications like neuropathy. Frustrated, he took matters into his own hands in the 1960s. At a time when home glucose monitoring wasn't available to patients – glucometers were hospital tools only – he leveraged his wife's position as a physician to procure one.

He began meticulously testing his blood sugar responses to different foods, discovering that carbohydrates spiked his levels dramatically while proteins and fats provided stability. He mapped his findings on a graph. Much to everyone's surprise, he started getting better. He thought he had stumbled on a new way to treat diabetes and wrote an article about his self-experimentation. No medical journal was willing to publish it.

S R Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

They said he was not qualified – he held no degree in medicine.

When he was 45, he quit engineering and signed up for medical school. He became an MD. He was simultaneously working on a low-carbohydrate, high-protein diet that normalised blood sugars and reversed many complications. Empowered by his results and his medical degrees, he started treating diabetics.

Emphasising strict dietary control over reliance on pills and insulin injections, he achieved considerable success in his practice. He summed up his findings in his book, *Diabetes Solution*, first published in 1997 and updated since, challenging mainstream advice, and arguing that diabetics could achieve near-normal blood sugars through diet alone or with minimal medicines.

It took some decades for Bernstein's philosophy to permeate mainstream methods. His advice is easier for meat eaters to follow. Vegetarian diets are rich in carbohydrates from grains. But with some tweaks, vegetarians have also been able to try his method.

In more recent years, I have explored structured diabetes remission programmes, which align with Bernstein's focus on diet but incorporate support with the help of apps and AI tools. These programmes emphasise carbohydrate restriction, meal planning, and tracking. They provide nutrition coaching, occasional doctor consultations, and monitoring tools.

A breakthrough came in 1921 when Canadian researchers Dr Frederick Banting and Charles Best discovered how insulin could be used to treat diabetics. Over the decades, we have heard of radical treatments in the making, but few have come into clinical practice. The recent advent of drugs like Ozempic and Mounjaro has generated much excitement, but it is still too early to say whether they will make a big impact in India, described as the world's diabetes capital.

Remission isn't guaranteed, and a relapse can occur with any deviation from the diet, but the silver lining motivates action. The perception began changing in 2009 with a formal definition of remission by a consensus group. In 2021, the American Diabetes Association refined it further, defining remission as an HbA1c of under 6.5% sustained for at least three months off glucose-lowering medications. This evolution has brought optimism. As for the healing, well, work on it!

SANS THE SACRED

Epic grudges, deadly brawls

I recently read about a man who was killed in Delhi, allegedly over a fight about who would pay for chicken at a party, and it got me thinking about how party brawls can prove quite fatal. A case in point – the Yadavas in the *Mahabharata*.

Everyone interested in the *Mahabharata* knows about how the young son of Arjuna, Abhimanyu, was killed by multiple warriors fighting against him, when he had no chariot and his bowstring was cut off from the back. And the killing of Drona, after Yudhishthira lied to him that his son Ashvatthama was dead, is well known too. But there was another killing that not only made ripples in the Mahabharata war but had deadly consequences decades after the incident.

Satyaki, a Yadava warrior and Arjuna's disciple in archery, was a powerful presence in the Pandava army. Bhurishravas was a Kuru prince, the son of Somadatta, who fought on the Kaurava side. The two never missed an occasion to attack each other during the Mahabharata war because of a long-standing conflict between their families. Bhurishravas's father and Satyaki's grandfather had once fought a battle over Devaki, who later became Krishna's mother. Ultimately, Satyaki's grandfather, who had fought on behalf of Vasudeva (who later became Krishna's father), triumphed. But Somadatta was angry at how he was kicked, and his hair was pulled in the fight. He performed penance to Shiva to obtain a son who would avenge the insult he suffered. This bad blood between the two families continued even after Devaki was married, Krishna was born, grew up, and served as Arjuna's charioteer in the war!

In the war, an exhausted Satyaki, who had been battling against Drona all day, was challenged by an enthusiastic Bhurishravas and could not refuse. Bhurishravas overpowered Satyaki and dragged him by the hair and kicked him in battle – thereby avenging the insult done to his father several decades ago. Meanwhile, Krishna informed Arjuna that Satyaki was being dragged around, unconscious, and right before Bhurishravas could cut off Satyaki's head, Arjuna shot an arrow from a distance that lopped off Bhurishravas's arm.

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Bhurishravas was stunned and let go of Satyaki. Then, he began to rebuke Arjuna for breaking the rules of the battle by attacking an opponent who was not engaged in battle with him without warning. Before Arjuna even replied, Bhurishravas decided that he was done with battle and renounced the world, preparing to give up his body. At this point, Satyaki regained consciousness and retaliated by decapitating Bhurishravas, while he was lost in meditation. Satyaki's actions were criticised by warriors on both sides of the battle, but he justified himself by claiming that he was only avenging the insult that was meted out to him by kicking him while he was unconscious.

The battle continued and ended. Bhurishravas was dead, but Kritavarma, a fellow Yadava who fought on the side of the Kauravas, survived along with Satyaki. Several decades later, when the Yadavas were at a drinking party, Satyaki brought up some wrongdoings of Kritavarma from decades ago. Kritavarma, of course, lost no opportunity in reminding Satyaki that he was no paragon of virtue himself. After all, he had cut off the head of Bhurishravas when the latter was unarmed and had even renounced the world. When Satyaki picked up some grass to strike Kritavarma with, it turned into a missile in his hands, thanks to a sage's curse. The fight that so began ended with all the Yadavas killing each other.

Now, what are we supposed to take from all this? Perhaps the lesson is simple. If politics turns into a highlight reel of old grudges, everyone loses.

CULTURE AND COSMOS

The Valentine's Day illusion: What couples get wrong about love

Shaifali Sandhya
is an international psychologist, former professor, and writer on culture, cosmopolitanism, and global affairs

As roses flood markets on Valentine's Day, divorce and separation petitions rise. Behind the roses, quieter reckonings unfold at home. If you could choose again, I ask a couple: what would you want in a partner?

In their mid-30s, they've been together for two decades. They move between Bengaluru and Silicon Valley, work demanding jobs, and raise toddlers. Like them, many couples I work with are facing unsettling questions at a time when love is renegotiated, marketed, and made more spectacular. *Why doesn't this feel nourishing anymore? Should I stay or leave? Why is my partner distant*? Their uncertainty reflects wider shifts in how love is imagined and lived.

Today, love marketed by billionaires and influencers is increasingly commodified. The pickup line – "May I meet you?" – suggests billionaire Bill Ackman can solve for both romance and declining birth rates. Find yourself somebody who loves you with an intensity, says US Vice President J D Vance, as the devotion Democrats feel towards undocumented immigrants. "Never question me," snarls the drunken, male protagonist of a new Bollywood blockbuster to his partner, if you want a happy married life. Online, viral memes – ghosting, monkey-branching, throning, wokefishing – urge, "Don't let a man love you quietly." Love must be spectacular.

Against this cultural din, where love is loud yet mysterious, their answers feel radical in their simplicity. "Someone who doesn't make me feel unseen," the wife says. "Someone who listens, and actually hears me." The husband adds, "Someone I can trust, who supports my growth and well-being."

What they describe isn't uncommon; it's simply overshadowed. As love becomes spectacle, intimacy rooted in responsiveness often vanishes. Relationships rarely collapse from lovelessness; they collapse because love is mistaken for intensity rather than the daily act of showing up, again and again. Cultural fantasies of a perfect romance magnify unmet expectations, exposing preexisting fractures. Strained couples are nearly five times more likely to separate around symbolic celebrations such as Valentine's Day when scrutiny intensifies.

This is not an argument against romance or celebration. To be fair, spectacle is not the problem. Novel gestures can revive connection and reawaken attention. But without consistent care, spectacle substitutes for real connection.

For many couples, loneliness is not a failure of intention but of capacity. Care becomes difficult when political and economic instability drains the attention and emotional bandwidth that intimacy requires. In early 2026, major technology companies announced thousands of layoffs amid restructuring and shifting AI investment. US immigration uncertainty has further destabilised Indian households, triggering sudden returns from the US, income volatility, and identity disruption.

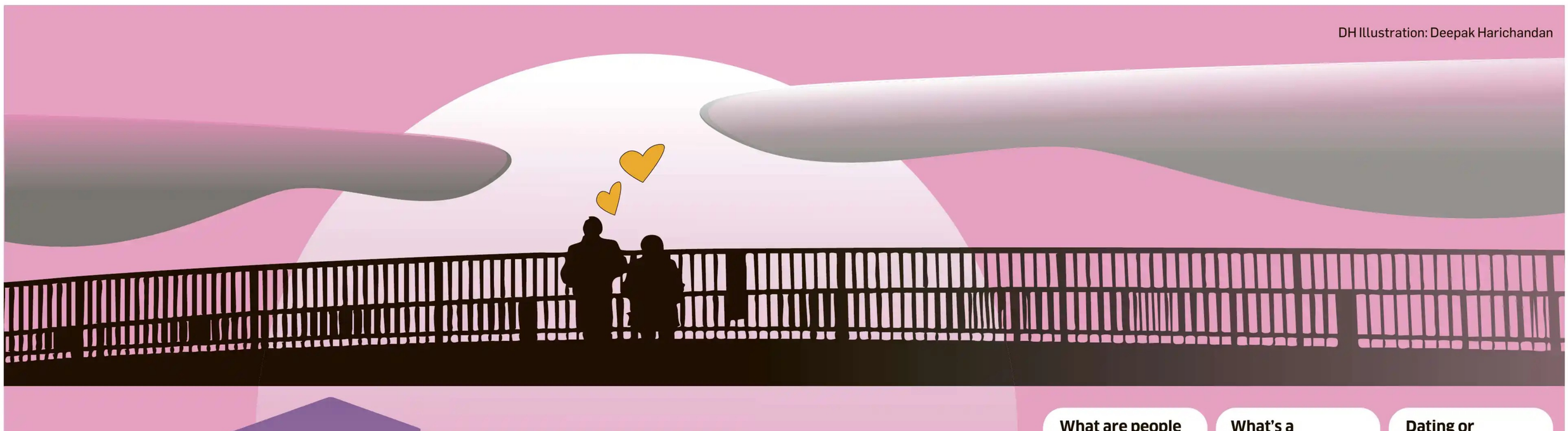
Divorce rates have climbed or plateaued at historically high levels. In Bengaluru, the risk of divorce is highest during the early to mid years of marriage – approximately between years 3 and 7 – with a secondary increase around years 10 to 15. In Karnataka, the number of divorce petitions increased by a factor of three between 2020 and 2022. These numbers reflect not sudden failure, but years of unattended erosion.

These patterns are not random. In my 2020 book on building love and intimacy, I describe three forces that undermine relationships in India. First, interference from joint-family dynamics, even when not living with them, can divide couples. Second, gendered invisible labour, particularly cognitive and emotional workloads, leaves one partner overextended. Third, technology, while sustaining connection across borders, can also fragment attention through constant, unexamined use.

The good news is that erosion happens slowly, and so does repair. Repair begins in the smallest units of daily life. Intimacy grows through small acts of kindness – what clinicians call *responsiveness*. These gestures deepen emotional attunement and foster safety. In many Indian homes, it's common for a husband to walk ahead of his wife or start eating before she does. This isn't just a traditional practice; it can reflect a deeper issue of emotional inequality in the relationship. Intentional gestures, however, send a wordless message: *we are together, you matter*.

Five clinically grounded practices can rebuild care: First, the 20-second reunion. When your partner enters a room, pause for a full 20 seconds. Make eye contact. Offer a touch. Second, practice specific gratitude – not a vague "thanks for everything" but one precise acknowledgment. Third, when family opinions intrude, respond as a unit. Statements like "We'll talk it over and decide together" publicly signal solidarity. Four, rotate responsibility for communicating with extended family so emotional labour does not pool with one partner. A five-minute check-in after family interactions can prevent resentments from hardening. Five, make invisible labour visible. Designate weekly chores and shared responsibilities. Instead of waiting to be reminded, do one thing daily that you know your partner worries about.

Roses are red, violets are blue, and love shines true. Let's be honest, romance matters. But it survives only when attention and presence are reliably offered. When love feels lonely, it is because one has been mistaken for the other.



DH Illustration: Deepak Harichandan

What are people looking for?
- Low-drama connection
- Shared values
- Mutual respect
- Emotional safety
- Belonging without performance

What's a friendship reset?
- Stepping away from emotionally draining friendships
- Setting boundaries
- Quality over quantity
- No boomerangs

Dating or exhausting?
- Endless swiping
- Choice overload
- Burnout over bonding
- 'The one' over many not-so-great options

F.R.I.E.N.D.S, BY design

Even as Valentine's Week celebrates love in all its forms, many urban Indians are rethinking friendship. Emotional burnout, digital fatigue, and changing priorities are pushing adults towards smaller, safer circles and interest-led communities. Here, connections are intentional and boundaries respected, discovers Fiona Vaz

Every weekend in Bengaluru, a run club brings together a group of about 50 people, belonging to different walks of life and age groups, near a lake before sunrise. Most of them arrive alone, others with a friend. Some stand at a distance and scroll their phones, and others stretch while having a small conversation. Within a few minutes, they start running together. No racing, no competition. Just a space to find connections with similar interests.

Many adults participate in these weekly rituals not just for another fun weekend activity, but to form connections in a city where the traditional way of forming friendships no longer feels genuine. Across urban India, especially in cities where migration, long working hours, a commute that takes forever, and emotional burnout collide, a quiet social shift is underway. One that is more conscious and deeply personal.

Adults prefer ending friendships that feel emotionally exhausting, setting boundaries, and choosing smaller circles and meaningful relationships. Additionally, interest-led communities such as different activity clubs and social platforms also aid this shift. Psychologists say this "friendship reset" is not driven by betrayal, but by burnout, personal responsibilities, caregiving, and increasing awareness of emotional boundaries.

What remains unanswered is the question: Who is worth the effort? This is not an epidemic of loneliness, but a revolution of emotional boundaries.

Friendship or a chore?

"I was everyone's emergency contact," says 25-year-old consultant Sneha Nair. "But when I needed support after I lost my job, no one came to help me. That was my turning point."

Friendships in schools and colleges were forged through shared routines, proximity, or necessity. In adulthood, these default settings change, and the emotional bandwidth within people shrinks. "We are seeing people come in saying they are tired of friendships," says Yashika Pandey, a Bengaluru-based psychologist. "Not angry or hurt, just emotionally drained." Hustle-culture, financial burden, and digital fatigue are stretching people thin.

"Friendships sometimes take a backseat," she explains. "People carry expectations without wanting to put in the same effort because they are already tired elsewhere."

Vidha Choudhary, clinical psychology trainee, says, this shift is partly a result of how technology has affected the emotional availability of an individual. "There are so many 'shoulds' now. You should reply, you should react, you should show up, online or physically. The pressure to be constantly available creates emotional exhaustion."

The guilt of letting go

In India, the urban population forms bonds that fill the void of distance from family. But they can dissolve within seconds when someone changes cities, jobs, or their personal life choices. Stepping back from friendships is often accompanied by guilt. Gitoshri Sen, clinical psychologist trainee, explains that society rarely validates emotional needs in platonic relationships.

"People don't feel guilty because the friendship is good," adds Yashika. "They feel guilty because it's familiar." The result is that many people decide to stay in relationships that silently drain them until it reaches a breaking point.

Vidha adds that grief also plays a part. "Losing closeness in a friendship can cause denial. There is also a fear of being abandoned or not finding another friendship."

A case of disconnect

The involvement of social media has reshaped and also complicated adult friendships. WhatsApp groups create the illusion of intimacy. Instagram stories are constant updates without any real conversation. How people experience dating platforms equally adds to emotional exhaustion. "Most dating app burnout is from how casual apps are designed. Gamified swiping triggers dopamine loops that keep people scrolling without connecting," Chandni Gaglani, head of Aisle Network, explains.

This digital fatigue is pushing people to disconnect themselves not just from screens, but from relationships that are majorly sustained through them. Gitoshri explains that there is pressure attached to simple digital gestures. "People feel expected to respond quickly, react, or engage consistently online. When that does not happen, it can feel like rejection."

The result is a lack of emotional depth and rising exhaustion. "People express discomfort indirectly through muting, blocking, or passive digital withdrawal rather than direct communication," she adds.

Meaning, not matches

The same burnout one experiences in friendships is also reflected in the dating scenario. Chandni says she has observed what people expect from a connection. "It's no longer about possibilities or how many conversations you can juggle. It's about finding 'the one'."

This reiterates what psychologists have observed in friendships. Whether it is dating or platonic bonds, the importance has moved towards intention instead of one-sided or shallow relationships. Gaglani notes, "Dating platform users want to feel seen and understood, not just matched."

"A healthy relationship in an urban context looks like consistency, comfort and support. But there's a fine-tuning of expectations from each other and how each manages to communicate and fulfil it," adds Vidha.

Reaching out, again

This shift is not limited to young adults. Women and men in their 40s and 50s are also seeking low-drama and interest-based friendships. To ease this feeling of inadequacy, trekking clubs, pottery workshops, music circles, and cycling groups are becoming social lifelines for many.

"At this age, emotional chaos can be very jarring," says a 42-year-old insurance professional, who joined a weekend cycling group. "We bond over the activity, and the conversation flows naturally. These friendships may be lighter, but are without emotional overdependence," he adds.

Boundaries as protection

Experts say that what has changed is how people now interpret boundaries. While earlier generations were encouraged to adjust and compromise, today's urban population is learning to say no. "It is a mature step to take when you enforce boundaries in friendships," says Yashika. "It just means that you value that bond and person a lot to keep them around and not let it get draining."

"In the earlier days, we tolerated emotional overload," says Vidha. "Now people are learning that boundaries are not rejection, but instead it is protection."

Psychologists argue that setting healthy boundaries allows friendships to survive adulthood pressure: career, family, mental health, and distance, without collapsing. But these boundaries also mean that some relationships that cannot adapt naturally break away.

Shared activities

While old and traditional ways of forming connections weaken, new ones are emerging. Sidharth Yadav, founder of Stride Run Club, says many people arrive carrying social anxiety, nervousness, and loneliness. "Around 30 to 40 per cent come alone. They've moved cities, lost long friendships, or grown apart from older circles."

Shared activity makes it a safe space for unforced conversations. "Direct socialising feels awkward," he says. "But when you meet through an activity, there's no pressure to impress. The connection feels more real."

Over time, recognition and routine create trust, making people shed their old identities. "People start opening up because they feel seen," he adds.

Interest-led communities, once created by solo individuals, are now being practised by large-scale social platforms like Aisle Network, organising walkathons, workshops, or hobby meet-ups, as a result of how shared activities help people form real connections.

No emotional performance

Nithin N, a 37-year-old principal solutions consultant, joined a run club after months of working from home. "I wanted to meet people who shared the same interests," he says. "By my fifth run, I already had 10–15 friends."

For Dr Ichita Joshi, a dentist, joining a run club offered more than fitness. "Running alone didn't feel safe as a woman. Here, I had people motivating me, and I made a social circle. Such connections do not require emotional performance. People come together, meet, move, talk, and leave, without feeling any pressure," she adds.

And no emotional debt

What develops in these spaces is a new model of friendship. The kind that is lighter but has more depth and value.

"When people feel included and their names remembered, they start opening up," says Sidharth. "In a world where recognition is scarce, that matters."

"You don't have to message every day," says Dr Ichita. "You meet after weeks and pick up where you left off. There's no feeling of guilt." She calls them happy, low-effort friendships.

Nithin says these interest-led communities help revive his old friendships. "People saw me running and reached out again. We reconnected again through shared routines."

The search for safety

Friendships are often formed by shared situations, not taught skills. As people grow, move, and change, their emotional needs shift, reshaping who they feel connected to.

Across psychologists, community founders, and people, one 'need' that stands out is emotional safety.

"A healthy friendship is one where there is respect for one's needs and boundaries," says Yashika. "It does not mean you constantly talk. It means empowering your friend and being there when needed."

"These 'emotional safety nets' allow space for vulnerability, where people feel comfortable sharing their struggles," adds Gitoshri.

"Emotional availability has become a non-negotiable filter," says Chandni. "According to 'The Commitment Decade' study, one in three dating app users would end a relationship due to inconsistent behaviour, one in four if effort isn't reciprocated, and one in five if emotional availability is missing," she explains.

Not withdrawal but awareness

In a country that has long glorified large social circles and emotional tolerance, many are embracing emotional honesty. Contemporary urban Indians are no longer willing to give up their mental health for social commitments. Instead, they are choosing connections that are more real, mutual, safe, and aligned with their principles.

"This reset is emotional maturity, not withdrawal," Gaglani says. "With greater self-awareness comes a clearer sense of needs, boundaries, and emotional capacity. People are choosing steadier, more aligned relationships that feel emotionally safe and sustainable."

As Nithin puts it, "Friendships do not require similar backgrounds or workplaces. Meaningful connections can form anywhere."

Once the run came to an end, some went home with a new friend, while others found a sense of belonging.

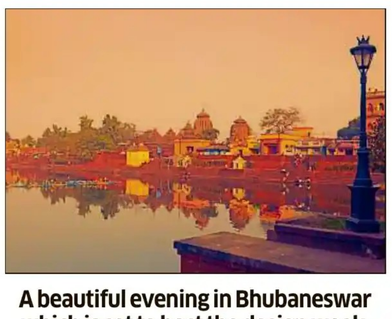
MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

From Bauhaus to Bhubaneswar, a design journey

Where will India's next design conversation emerge from? You would not immediately think of Bhubaneswar, would you? And yet, that is precisely what makes Bhubaneswar Design Week (BDW) compelling. Conceived and curated by the Odisha Design Council, BDW is less about spectacle and more about intent and is an attempt to place design at the heart of Odisha's cultural, economic and technological future.

Anchored in the idea of "Bauhaus to Bharat to Odisha", BDW is about



A beautiful evening in Bhubaneswar which is set to host the design week.

design confidence. The idea is to root global design philosophies in local realities. Temple architecture, handloom traditions, craft economies, emerging manufacturing hubs, artificial intelligence and urban innovation are all treated as part of the same continuum. Design, in this vision, is not decoration. It is part of the city's soul.

The choice of Bhubaneswar is not as unusual as one might assume. Over the past decade, the city has emerged as an education hub and a rising IT and manufacturing destination. What it has lacked, until now, is a visible platform that connects this growth with creative thinking. BDW attempts to activate that latent energy by convening conversations that cut across disciplines: crafts and AI, textiles and technology, heritage and future cities. It asks how Odisha's deep cultural memory can shape what comes next.

Paresh Choudhury

What is interesting is that BDW is not positioning itself as a one-off. It aims to function as a movement, one that nudges design-based policy decisions and forges connections between global practitioners and local makers, strengthens design education, and supports MSMEs and women-led creative enterprises through meaningful intervention.

Several globally acclaimed designers and artists, such as David Carson, Pratap Bose, Shanoo Bhatia, Benny Thomas and Adwaita Gadanayak, are set to share space and thoughts with Indian educators and practitioners, creating a dialogue rather than a hierarchy. At the centre of this vision is Paresh Choudhury, BDW's curator and the Founder–Chairman of the Odisha Design Council. With over three decades of global experience and a parallel career as an educator and researcher, Choudhury brings both credibility and conviction to the table.

His work on Odia typography has received much appreciation. BDW is, in many ways, an extension of that same impulse to ensure Odisha is not merely represented, but meaningfully designed into the future.

The Bhubaneswar Design Week is most likely to be held in the latter part of the year.

DHNS

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

This is a sharp meditation on why clothing is choreography and how power and vulnerability are stitched into every fold of what we wear, writes Sandeep Menon

Tailored truths

There is a classic debate that asks the question; do clothes make the man? Or does the man make the clothes?

Keeping aside the gendered nature of the question, it is one that is worth pondering. One could argue both sides, make salient points and pick examples out of the ether to support their thesis, but it is undeniable that clothes — and one can safely extend that to appearance and the way we carry ourselves — is a reflection of the wearer's personality. Whether one chooses to wear designer, traditional or western garb, or even refuses to partake in the trend and opts to wear 'what is comfortable', it is a statement of who we are.

In Shefalee Vasudev's Stories We Wear: Status, Spectacle and the Politics of Appearance, it is a simple truth that reveals itself. Appearances matter. Yes, it is a fact you have probably always known; in some cases, even chosen to disregard. But as you flip through the pages, it manifests as something you cannot ignore. It makes you understand the depths to which appearances help in creating your personal monomyth.

None of these self-realisations or contemplations is forced. It comes as the author takes you through a myriad of, sometimes a bit meandering, essays. When she speaks about the khadi as a political symbol, you recall the politically inclined family member or neighbour for whom khadi or khadar was part of their identity. When she writes about the carefully curated, paparazzi-ready look the celebrities pull off at the airport and contrasts it with the uniformed and neatly tailored appearance of the Central Industrial Security Force officers, you recall your own experiences with a uniformed member of our society. You might even think of the chance encounter with a celebrity and remember what they wore and question — for instance — why wear sunglasses indoors?

The reader's personal realisations aside, the book talks about hidden-in-plain-sight truths. From power suits to brooches and garments, politicians and their attire carry meaning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's style is curated — the author says — to reflect an India that takes pride in its nationhood and economic aspirations while projecting stability and cultural rootedness. Vasudev also looks at the other side of the political aisle, where Rahul Gandhi has been reimagining his political image with his white T-shirt, scruffy beard and rushed body language of a 'man on the move'. Sarees are worn to suggest 'decolonised simplicity' or 'one of the people'.

Modi's style is carefully curated to reflect cultural rootedness. DH Archives

The most chilling bit in that chapter is a line from Julia Sonnevend: "charm will shape the future of democracy worldwide, as political values will be increasingly embodied by mediated personalities".

The section about the evolution of khadi from the days of Mahatma Gandhi to its latest iteration and the multiple struggles of the khadi industry to rebrand itself is interesting.

The book moves through stories of people. A CISF personnel who wears the uniform like a superhero costume. "Uniform symbolises the mental transition of an officer from being a civilian to being part of a security force," an officer says. The mini-revolution in small towns triggered by OTT platforms and series which showcase strong rural women. On the truth behind fire injuries in India. Survival does not mean winning; there is stigma and challenges for the victims because of the social focus on appearance. It is a sobering read, one that points to the need for compassion alongside medical support. The tale of Masaba Gupta, daughter of Sir Vivian Richards and actor Neena Gupta, reclaiming the word 'Lovechild' — once scandalous — into a personal brand is intriguing and heartening. It shows the importance of narrative. The audiences are no longer sheep with a bank balance. In a crowded influencer market, relatability and inspiration are currency. The journey of life is branded — self-love, growth, health journey, self discovery et al. Stories need to be told, untold and retold.

The author also lays bare the hypocrisy of the fashion industry. The producers who greenwash their considerable sins by co-opting sustainability jargon and keywords, and stripping them of meaning. The consumers for the paradox over their claim to care about sustainability and the success of fast fashion in India.

What really comes through, repeatedly, is the class difference, both economic and caste, that plays a role in all these aspects. In the same location, a celebrity wears a curated look for social media while the CISF officers don their uniform as a responsibility. Artists from marginalised societies use their unique voices and style to force the mainstream to pay attention. Coffee and cafe culture continue to be part of the elite, at least in how they are consumed in popular culture. Tea, the author mentions, does not have the same cool quotient. True, tea does lack that pizzazz, and connoisseurs of its finer details are far less vocal. Yet it remains a fundamental part of everyday life, punctuating breaks between the hustle.

In the end, Stories We Wear is more than clothes. It is a projection of the self. It encompasses fashion, hope, aspiration, death, helplessness, social distinction, responsibility and more. Everything tells a story. Our story.

Rahul Gandhi has been reimagining his political image with his scruffy beard and white shirts.

STORIES WE WEAR
Shefalee Vasudev
Westland,
pp 288, Rs 699

In a fish bowl, under arc lights...

A new book poignantly chronicles the lives of child artists, the grit behind the glamour and childhoods shaped by fame, exploitation and constant scrutiny, writes Sudhirendar Sharma

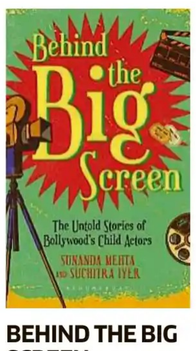
From her debut in 1955, child artist Daisy Irani acted in over 300 films. A natural talent with no formal training, she was known for her quick uptake and her ability to deliver near-perfect performances before the camera. One of the most successful and recognisable child artists of the 1950s and 1960s, some roles were even written or rewritten especially for her.

With her short, curly locks, impish smile and large expressive eyes, Daisy was a child star for whom arc lights became a playground. From Naya Daur (1956) to Kati Patang (1970), she shared screen space with veterans such as Dilip Kumar, Rajesh Khanna, Vyjayanthimala and Asha Parekh with remarkable ease. Behind the Big Screen narrates the untold stories of child actors and delves into the lives of children who once lit up the silver screen. It explores the joys, struggles and unique pressures of growing up under constant public scrutiny. The book is as much a celebration as it is a revelation, chronicling young lives consumed under arc lights. Names like Tabassum, Honey, Raju, Khushbu, Manju, Naaz and Guddu were once household names, evoking fond memories even today. Several of these innocent faces were nothing short of a brand.

Yet, the dazzling world of cinema ravaged many childhoods, becoming for some a "never-ending black comedy". While a few felt blessed by their early success, many others felt betrayed.

The late Tabassum, a noted child artist of yesteryear, once said, "There is no such thing as a child actor, because when you enter the industry as a child artist, the word 'child' drops off from the artist's life." The Bollywood industry operates on production schedules with limited moral or ethical compulsions. Irrespective of age, the grilling and gruelling remain the same.

Behind the Big Screen makes for compelling reading. The narratives swing between opportunity and cost — between glittering fame at a young age and lifelong scars. Journalists Sunanda Mehta and Suchitra Iyer present a well-researched account of the prevailing ills of the industry while also offering guidance on navigating a world fundamentally built for adults.



BEHIND THE BIG SCREEN
Sunanda Mehta and Suchitra Iyer
Bloomsbury,
pp 284, Rs 599

In the makeshift world of cinema, a child is uprooted from their natural ecosystem of same-age peers and abruptly pushed into adulthood. Once inside this fabricated world of fiction and imagination, childhood dreams inevitably collide with harsh realities.

The book examines the world of child actors and the film industry in its entirety. It does not merely skim the surface but probes both the sparkle of cinema and the shadows it casts. It is telling that child rights remain inadequately protected even as cinema routinely acknowledges animal rights upfront in its credits — "no animals were harmed during the making of the film." In the absence of regulations for child artists, safeguards are left largely to the discretion of producers and directors.

Rules governing the industry are neither strict nor uniformly applied. As things stand, cinema remains less a regulated industry and more a free-for-all.

Ensuring safety on sets, regular school attendance, and shorter working hours should not be difficult. Yet exploitation of children remains a pressing issue that has not been adequately addressed. Child artists Daisy Irani and Honey Irani have spoken openly about being exploited, with no one available to counsel them. In many cases, family members were complicit in the abuse. When a child becomes a star, the parent-child relationship often shifts, with the child reduced to a cash cow.

There is a refreshing honesty in the way Behind the Big Screen tackles interpersonal and socio-cultural issues. Despite the gravity of its subject, the book allows moments of humour and mischief to surface. Recollections of on-set pranks, camaraderie among child actors, and the sheer joy of being part of iconic films provide insightful counterpoints to the darker truths. This balance of insight and charm makes the book a genuine page-turner.

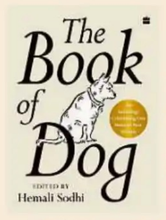
MOODBOARD

From stories of healing to cross-country railway adventures and laugh-out-loud chaos at home, these three books celebrate the messy and yet profound bond between pets and their parents.

Thinking of Winter by Shantanu Naidu (Penguin)
This tenderly written memoir explores the bond between the author and his golden retriever, Winter. From the snowy streets of Ithaca to the vibrant chaos of Mumbai, the duo navigates life's ups and downs together. Naidu reflects on valuable lessons learned from Winter and shows how a four-legged friend can shape us in small, surprising ways.

Chaos in a Coupe by Divya Dugar (HarperCollins)
Journalist Divya Dugar recounts her family's extraordinary train journeys across India with their three rescue Indies —Tigress, Marcopolo, and Pari. Travelling in first-class railway coupes, they explore destinations like Goa and Rajasthan. The book is a witty and whimsical account that challenges perceptions of street dogs, celebrating the joy of seeing the world through canine eyes while navigating a travel system designed primarily for humans.

The Book of Dog edited by Hemali Sodhi (HarperCollins)
This anthology brings together 45 original pieces by some of India's most beloved writers, including Ruskin Bond, Ashwin Sanghi, and Maneka Gandhi. It captures a vast spectrum of life with dogs— from the pure comedy of their antics to the deep grief of saying goodbye. More than just a collection of stories, it serves as a heartfelt tribute to "desi" dogs.



Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

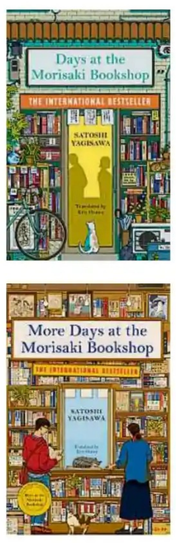
INTERVIEW

'I don't believe in chasing trends'

In a chat with Asra Mavad, bestselling Japanese author Satoshi Yagisawa talks about why his books are cosy reads and how fiction can be a bridge between countries

Quietly influential, Japanese novelist Satoshi Yagisawa has built an international readership through intimate, understated stories rooted in everyday life. Best known for 'Days at the Morisaki Bookshop', his work favours warmth and reflection over spectacle. In an interview with *DHoS*, Yagisawa, who was recently in Bengaluru, discusses his deliberately unhurried writing style, his resistance to chasing literary trends, and his desire to use fiction as a gentle bridge — inviting readers worldwide to encounter Japanese culture through small moments and ordinary places. *Excerpts*

Many of your stories focus on the emotional lives of ordinary people. How do you think everyday experiences in Japan and India differ, and have you noticed any cultural similarities?



I'm not well-versed enough to comment on Indian society or the patriarchal nature of it, but things are rapidly changing in Japan. While some patriarchal tendencies remain in rural areas, cities have moved away from them to a large extent. This is a shift that is happening globally, and it's happening for good.

More than the similarities, I'm having fun and learning more by noticing the differences between the two cultures. For example, the Japanese do not often visit places of worship to offer prayers. On the contrary, seeing Indians so devotedly visiting temples felt like a novel experience.

Indian and Japanese literature often share a sensitivity to inner life and spiritual reflection. What similarities do you see between the two literary traditions?

Unfortunately, Indian literature is not widely available in Japan. Not many books by Indian authors have been translated into Japanese, and as I don't read English, I haven't been able to explore Indian literature. I've heard there are quite a few similarities between Japanese and Indian literature, so I'm very interested in exploring it. Recently, in Chennai, I was recommended to check out the works of Arundhati Roy, which have been translated into Japanese. It looks like a heavy read, but I'm looking forward to it.

Satoshi Yagisawa.

Books and reading communities play a central role in your work. Why is that?

When you talk about people's feelings and emotions, and dive deep into their internal thoughts, the topic inevitably becomes heavy. I was afraid that if I were to write about heavy emotions, the younger crowd might shy away from picking up the book. I wanted my book to be accessible to people of all ages. I wanted them to be easy reads, without taking away the soul of the book. This is why I chose settings for books which provide a soothing, cosy atmosphere. The atmosphere in bookshops and cafes is so soft that your heart desires to be a part of them.

What major literary trends do you see in contemporary Japanese literature today?

Japan doesn't stick to one particular genre of books for long. There are different genres that become popular randomly from time to time, but they have a short life span and end up falling in popularity just as quickly. This is why I tend to stay away from trends. Following trends takes away from the author's creativity. For quite some time now, the genre which we call 'healing fiction' has been pretty popular. There has been a surge in such comforting books across Asia.

With the growing popularity of your books among international readers, do you now consciously think about a global audience?

My primary goal is to ensure the reader is able to delve into the story as easily as possible. I would also be happy if readers abroad would get to know more about Japanese culture through my books. So, once I learnt about my international readership, I have been keeping that in mind while writing. Now I do think about how to make it easier for people abroad to interact with Japanese culture. My way of writing has slightly changed now, as I make more of an effort to introduce Japanese culture and way of thinking into my books. While the feelings and personal conflicts remain the main dish, I sprinkle a bit of Japanese culture on top as a seasoning.

What about your future projects? Are you interested in exploring new themes, forms, or settings?

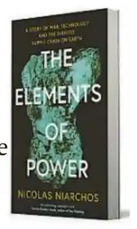
I don't pay much heed to themes. I begin writing, and the theme comes up along the way. I will continue to write about all the emotions brewing in the human heart. I do have some ideas, though, for books revolving around an inn and the bathhouse culture in Japan.

READ OF THE WEEK

In the rush for green energy, the world has become utterly reliant on resources unearthed far away and willfully blind to the terrible political, environmental, and social consequences of their extraction. If the Democratic Republic of the Congo possesses such riches, why are its children routinely descending deep into treacherous mines to dig with the most rudimentary of tools, or in some cases, their bare hands? Why are Indonesia's seas and skies being polluted in a rush for battery metals? Why is the Western Sahara, a source for phosphates, still being treated like a colony? Who must pay the price for progress?

With unparalleled, original reporting, Nicolas Niarchos reveals how the scramble to control these metals and their production is overturning the world order, just as the global race to drill for oil shaped the 20th century. Exploring the advent of the lithium-ion battery and tracing the supply chain for its production, Niarchos tells the story both of the people driving these tectonic changes and those whose lives are being upended. If you have ever used a smartphone or driven an electric vehicle, you are implicated.

Nicolas Niarchos began his journalistic career as a fact checker at the *New Yorker*, for which he is now a contributing writer.



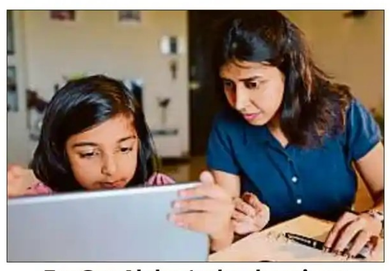
Raising GEN ALPHA

Ideas such as psychological and emotional safety or the pursuit of individuality were unheard of, for girls growing up in the Nineties. How do millennial and Gen Z women hope to raise their children in an AI-driven, hyper-digital world? Meera Vijayann shares her experiences first as a daughter, and now as a mother raising her six-year-old daughter

Last summer, after I registered my now six-year-old in kindergarten, the school district sent all newly registered families a list of rules. We live in Kirkland, a suburb in the Greater Seattle area, where nothing of importance happens. I expected a boring list of directional details about parking, nut allergies, and holiday events. But just as I was about to close the link in my inbox, one particular rule caught my eye: cell phones had to be turned off and kept in students' backpacks.

Why would anyone give a five-year-old a cellphone?

My daughter was born in 2019, right before the pandemic, so I'd always known that her life would be different from mine. The same summer I registered her in kindergarten, I asked my husband to bring up a box of my old journals that I'd safely locked away in the basement. These journals formed the basis of a memoir-in-essays that I was working on, 'Girls Who Said Nothing and Everything', and I needed



For Gen Alpha, technology is an extension of life. REPRESENTATION PIC

perspective. I wasn't surprised that the journals written between 1997 and 2004 were hard to read because it was a tumultuous time. I was a teenager and I didn't own a phone. My parents wouldn't allow it because they felt that technology use was a dangerous frontier for young women. Unlike my daughter, I got my first cellphone only in 2005, when I was in my second year of college. I was raised to believe that it was shameful to seek fulfilling relationships outside one's family. A piece of personal technology granted privacy and access to a world which could lead a girl child astray. New friends, boyfriends, whatnot. Although I rebelled against these views all of my life, I now began to wonder what dangers lay in store for my daughter.

I felt anxious.

Perhaps, decision-making is a complicated internal struggle because I still feel conflicted about the idea of right and wrong. Of course, I'm not a child anymore. The 90s were also a different time. One, I was under immense pressure to honour my parents' beliefs—by using technology only when they allowed, and two, privacy was a luxury that invited suspicion in my family of six. We had one computer at home, and it was in the living room for all of us to use. My parents were around all the time. The idea of having an identity that was completely online felt unsafe because they were more tech-savvy than I was at that age. They policed every aspect of my life—clothes, friends, phone calls, activities—and screamed at us constantly for the slightest failures. There were other issues too.

Pursuit of individuality

If pursuing individuality back then was an exhausting ordeal, the idea of psychological and emotional safety was unheard of. Women in my community were strictly home bound. Whenever I challenged my parents about their beliefs, I was reminded that I had more liberties as a woman than my other female cousins, all of whom had far stricter parents. By the time I was a teenager, the absence of a space to grow made home a suffocating and lonely place so I wrote down all my thoughts in journals and hid them away. I was happy knowing that there were no copies of my thoughts floating on the Internet, and that I could process them wherever I wanted with just a pen and sheet of paper. Writing terrible love poetry, short stories, and confessionals was how I learned to emotionally cope with life. Even today, at thirty-nine, the thought of someone finding my journals terrifies me. I don't know if it's shame around my individuality as a woman, or a paranoia that I might (even now) disappoint my parents but I suspect it's both.

Gen Alpha contrast

For my daughter, who is Gen Alpha and growing up in the United States, technology—and individuality—is an extension of life. After the Covid-19 pandemic, when the world moved online to cope and fumble towards normalcy, I learned quickly that my own ideas of right and wrong didn't make sense in the world she was being raised in. I couldn't raise a child in a country where students primarily used technology to learn. According to a study by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in 2022, 94 per cent of public schools provided laptops or tablets for students who needed it. While her kindergarten classroom had rules about not using phones—early this year, the NCES study also showed that 77 per cent of public schools prohibited students from using cell phones during any class because it affected academic performance—it stressed on the changing landscape of classrooms. About 47 per cent of schools teach students about AI. When my daughter comes home from school, most of her homework is on certified learning apps that she accesses on my iPad. Was this good or bad?

I thought about it. Yes, children are vulnerable online. Girls, especially, are at risk of becoming victims of sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, and grooming. I understand my parents' worries better now. But I want to raise a confident girl who doesn't grow up ashamed of herself in the online world and at the same time, find joy in life away from technology. Life is in the trees, the birds, and the wilderness. We live in the Pacific Northwest which is lush and beautiful. So time and time again, I remind myself that my childhood in India isn't comparable to my daughter's. This isn't the 90s. My relationship with technology was lonely and confusing because it was rooted in shame. When I was cyber-bullied, I assumed that it was what I deserved for getting a social media account. I didn't text in front of my parents because texting friends constantly was seen as wayward. Her relationship to technology, and herself, didn't have to be that way. If it was rooted in trust and guidance, she could flourish.

Different times, different parenting

I worried about the phone rule until a parent at my daughter's school put it in perspective in a few simple words. When I told her about my childhood in India and asked her if she worried about giving her children cellphones, she said, "Think about the reality here. This is a country where there is gun violence. There are school shootings. I don't think about anything but whether my children and I are prepared." Her words hit me in the gut. She was right. My responsibility wasn't to mourn my past but to prepare my daughter for a present—and a future—that was different from mine. It was much more important for me to raise her to be media literate, emotionally mature, and resilient to survive the challenges of AI, disinformation, sexism, and a hyper-politicised world in which she will find comfort but also, loss.

It is inevitable. Generation after generation, we have no choice but to continue learning and growing with each other.

(The writer's recent collection of memoir-in-essays, Girls Who Said Nothing and Everything, was published by Penguin Random House India.)

Travel

Tailing the TIGRESS

Manjulika Pramod visits the Satpura National Park in Madhya Pradesh and is richly rewarded with a moment of pure magic, that of a tigress emerging from the woods in all her majesty

It's during the dry season or on particularly warm days that your chances of spotting animals in the wild peak. Armed with cameras and binoculars, perched surreptitiously on a safari jeep, onlookers wait for them to emerge and to be enthralled by their majestic appearances. To be in that action-packed moment, amidst unmatched beauty is overwhelming. I can still feel that spine-tingling moment, the ecstasy and the bursts of joy inside me as I recall a recent safari experience inside Satpura National Park. Simply put, the bar has been set incredibly high this time.

Eerie silence serenaded the dawn. The moon and the stars were still hovering in the sky. The air felt cold as our vehicle headed to the Madhai gate for the morning safari. In our hearts, we were thankful for this temporary solace from the heat that was to follow in a few hours. The wildlife enthusiast in me couldn't resist asking, "How often do we get to see leopards and sloth bears in Satpura?"

"The jungles of Satpura are gorgeous and the excitement never ends here. I trust today will bring surprises too," said my accompanying naturalist Franklin Dolder. He subtly conveyed to us that being on a safari is all about being patient and appreciating the pristine beauty of the jungle. The sightings were cherry on the cake.

Soon, we reached the entrance of Madhai zone and crossed the Denwa river by boat to reach the starting point of the safari. Revati, one of the forest guides, joined us. We entered the forest with the first rays of the sun. Hundreds of sal, teak, mahua, and tendu trees smiled back at us. The deer and the langurs lurked around. The chirping of the birds and chattering of the monkeys became prominent. Despite being dry, the forest was full of life. The uneven terrain, the picturesque grasslands and the sparkling rivulets spoke highly of the dramatic landscape of Satpura, which means seven mountains.

Tigress-spotting at Satpura National Park.

Spotting the sloth bear

Hardly twenty minutes into the safari, Franklin signalled the driver to stop at an intersecting path and asked us to look towards our left. I could only see black stones in the thick foliage. The next second, a huge stone moved. Did it? As my eyes pierced through the woods, the elusive sloth bear became visible. The Indian bear with long shaggy fur emerged, stomping on everything that came on its way, giving us moments of pure delight.

On Revati's suggestion, the driver made headway towards the patch where the tiger had been a day before. We waited but in vain. Thankfully, our group was not fixated on tigers and we chose to wander around glorious landscapes and other strategic viewing points. This also gave us time to learn about the biodiversity of the jungle. En route, we spotted gaur, wild dog, spotted deer, woolly-necked storks, painted storks, and owlets.

Soon, Revati heard a call and we all caught a glimpse of the big cat sitting by the water body. We were on the other side with only the lake between us. We stayed, we watched, and we gasped as the leopard enthralled us with its cat walk. Regardless of no tiger sightings, we were jubilant.

In anticipation of a sighting

Some of the vehicles did spot a tiger too. There was not an iota of disappointment as I was soon distracted by the anticipation of the afternoon safari. Parsapani and Jamanidev are the buffer zones (near Madhai) of Satpura and post lunch, when we reached Jamanidev gate, most of the vehicles sped to reach the strategic viewing point around the water hole. A tiger and a tigress were regulars there. We also waited for half an hour but soon left to explore the undulating landscape, rolling grasslands and the other animals. The buffer area had many rough patches and bumpy rides, turning out to be a fun ride. It was evident that Satpura was a mysterious forest and a true biodiversity hotspot, adorned with Pachmarhi hills.

Just when we were thinking of backtracking, another jeep driver informed us of a tigress ahead. Voila!

This was the moment we had been waiting for. It is no hidden fact that for those who were part of the safari, tigers enjoyed a different kind of adulation. First, we saw her stripes. Soon, the striking figure crossed the pathway with elan. While we stood stunned, her growl sent a chill through our bones. She was bothered as her cubs were far behind. None of the vehicles moved to let the cubs join her.

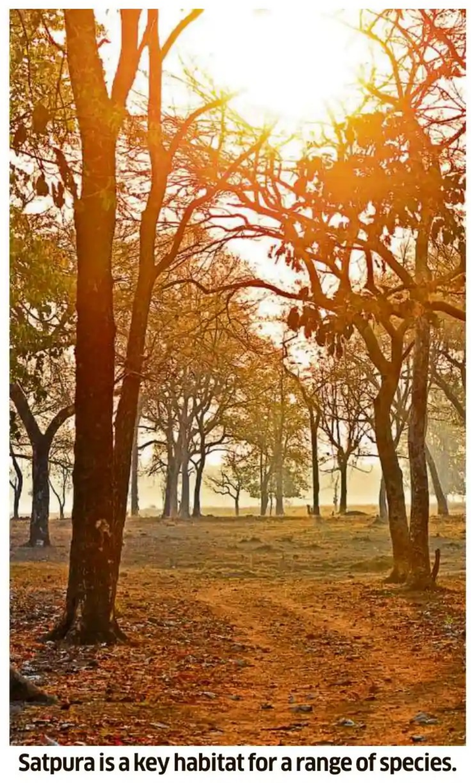
The drivers began to calculate her movement and lined up at a strategic point. We chose to skip the commotion and went ahead.

Did you know?

Nanhi, the Indian Giant Squirrel is the **official mascot of Satpura.** The Park has a large squirrel population.

Satpura tiger reserve was dotted with several villages and has had one of the most successful **village relocation** exercises that have enabled wildlife here to thrive.

Only 30 safari vehicles are permitted every day, ensuring a low-volume but high-quality wildlife experience.



Satpura is a key habitat for a range of species.

Lady luck was smiling on us — the tigress chose the same route and emerged from the woods. This time, she gave us a power look, sat down on the middle of the road, waited for each of her cubs to cross. Satpura had just given me a lasting bouquet of memories.

The park is also home to a wide variety of birds, including painted storks.

In the HERE & NOW

Use greens such as dill in palyas and rottis.

Have you often patted yourself on the back for choosing seasonal produce like apples from Himachal or strawberries from Mahabaleshwar? However, it's worth asking — all this is seasonal, but for whom? Ranjini Rao is all for picking seasonal produce that's also local

There's a haze, a softness to this time of the year in namma ooru. Winter is on its way out, the mornings are still nippy, but by noon the sun begins to really glow. It's also harvest season, with Sankranti just done, the fields cleared, and pantries full of seasonal goodies.

If we pay close attention, our appetite undergoes changes too. We might find ourselves craving something warm, nourishing and light. But this is also the time when seasonal food could get a little confusing, with strawberries from Mahabaleshwar, apples from Himachal, leafy greens from faraway farms, flooding our online feeds. It's tempting, even exciting and I have given in to this trend a few times myself — cooking undhiyu and sarson ka saag when the craving struck. But in retrospect, I think it's worth asking: all this is seasonal, but for whom?

Go local

In late winter, it's possibly easy to assume that if something is "in season" somewhere in India, it must be seasonal for us too. But seasonality is, and rightly so, regional. The local food calendar is shaped by its own weather, including patterns of rainfall and temperature shifts, and agricultural cycles. When we buy someone else's seasonal produce, we're adding distance, including packaging, and transport emissions, to our plate.

Food miles may sound like an abstract concept, and I've talked about this a few times here, but it's real. Produce that needs to survive long distances calls for cold chains, more plastic, more storage, more fuel, and more often than not, more handling.

This doesn't mean we must never eat an apple from Himachal again. But it does mean we can be mindful of what becomes routine. Seasonal eating, at its heart, is about eating from the landscape we live in, because that's where our everyday choices have the most immediate impact.

Citrus fruits, especially mosambi and chakotha, are perfect for in-between seasons.

THE GREEN THEORY

Regional stars

This is a season of steady abundance here in our state. We can find tender greens, beans, gourds, citrus, and the last wave of winter vegetables. We can also find harvest ingredients that are used in festive cooking, sesame, groundnuts, jaggery, and fresh rice.

Here are some ingredients and meal ideas that help us stay anchored to the ethos of seasonal and local:

Greens and leaves that can be quickly sautéed into a palya, mixed into a dal or tovve, or sambhar. Some varieties of greens, especially sabbasige or menthya, can also be chopped fine and mixed into akki rotti dough.

Beans and legumes, with avarekalu being the most widely preferred, but even simple local beans like togari kaalu, alsandekaalu, can be used to make usli or kootu. These can also be dried in the sun and preserved for the next season.

Citrus, especially heralekai, mosambi, chakotha, are perfect for this in-between weather, and they can also be pickled or turned into bitter-sweet-spicy gojjus, to last through the next season too.

Groundnuts and sesame, which bring warmth without the heaviness of other nuts and seeds, can be employed in a wide array of condiments and snacks, like chutney pudi, barfi or laddoo, and roasted snacks.

In fact, the ellu-bella mixture from Sankranti, which typically lasts through the first two months of the year, is a great in-between snack for an instant boost of energy, minus all the manufactured sweetness or flavour of store-bought stuff.

Jaggery, especially in harvest-time treats, is at its best during this season, because it is fresh and soft. Jaggery can be used in quite a few different ways in everyday cooking, right from sweetening the ragi porridge in the morning, to adding a dash of flavour to bedtime drinks, like warm milk with a pinch of turmeric and cinnamon powder. Jaggery is also typically consumed with a glass of water after a warm bath, or about a half hour before a meal.

This season is gentle and it is aligned with the elements of nature, neither too cold nor hot. If we can honour that and focus on our meal consumption, we can do away with the sense of urgency that social media dictates, about rare ingredients flying off the supermarket shelves. The real briskness in our days should come from eating what's right for the season, the planet, and our health.

(Ranjini is a communications professor, author, and podcaster, straddling many other worlds, in Bengaluru. She's passionate about urban farming and sustainable living, and can mostly be found cooking and baking in her little kitchen, where, surrounded by heirloom coffee kettles and mismatched tea cups, she finds her chi.)

EAT HYPER-LOCAL

- Let's try a simple rule for the next few weeks: one hyper-local, seasonal ingredient per day. Add a seasonal bunch of greens to your lunch.
- Make groundnut-onion chutney instead of buying a packaged dip.
- Snack on chakotha or guava sprinkled with salt and red chilli powder.
- Eat a fistful of ellu bella when evening hunger pangs strike.

How about using a peanut chutney in place of a dip?

NEW ON THE MENU

Indore: Upgrading its palate

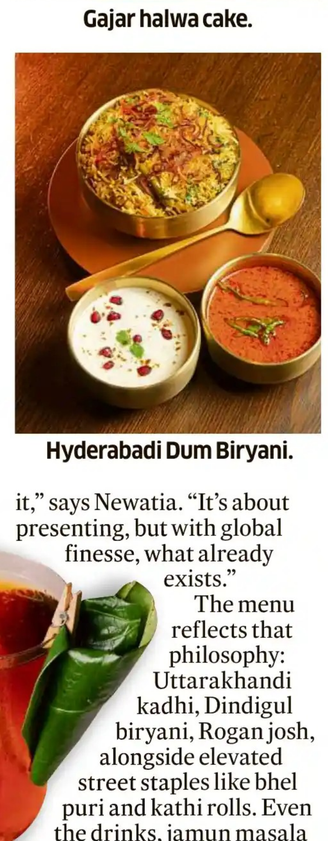
RASHMI VASUDEVA

From Udaipur's palace-led tasting menus to Surat's chef-driven Indian kitchens, fine dining is no longer the sole preserve of India's metros. Across smaller cities, a new generation of diners is discovering that epicurean ambition can thrive well beyond Delhi, Mumbai or Bengaluru. Indore is firmly part of this shift.

On a chilly Indore evening, the conversation at one of its newest outlets, Masala Code, drifts from spice tempering to sourcing, fermentation and plating. The tasting menu is structured with care. There is a deliberate attempt being made to get diners introduced to region-specific delicacies, be it Hyderabadi Dum biryani or a traditional Kerala-style mutton curry.

This is not a big-city flex. This is a city quietly upgrading its palate.

Long celebrated for its street-food bravado, Indore is now staking a claim in refined dining, and this is being led by Chef Vedant Newatia. Trained in Switzerland and having worked in kitchens across Europe and the US, Newatia returned home to open Atelier V, an intimate, experimental space that nudged diners toward global techniques. With Masala Code, he is turning the spotlight on Indian cuisines and flavours, but with a twist. Newatia calls it a reimagination of the tried-and-trusted. "The idea was never to modernise Indian food for the sake of it," says Newatia. "It's about presenting, but with global finesse, what already exists."



Gajar halwa cake.

Hyderabadi Dum Biryani.

A signature cocktail at the Indore restaurant.

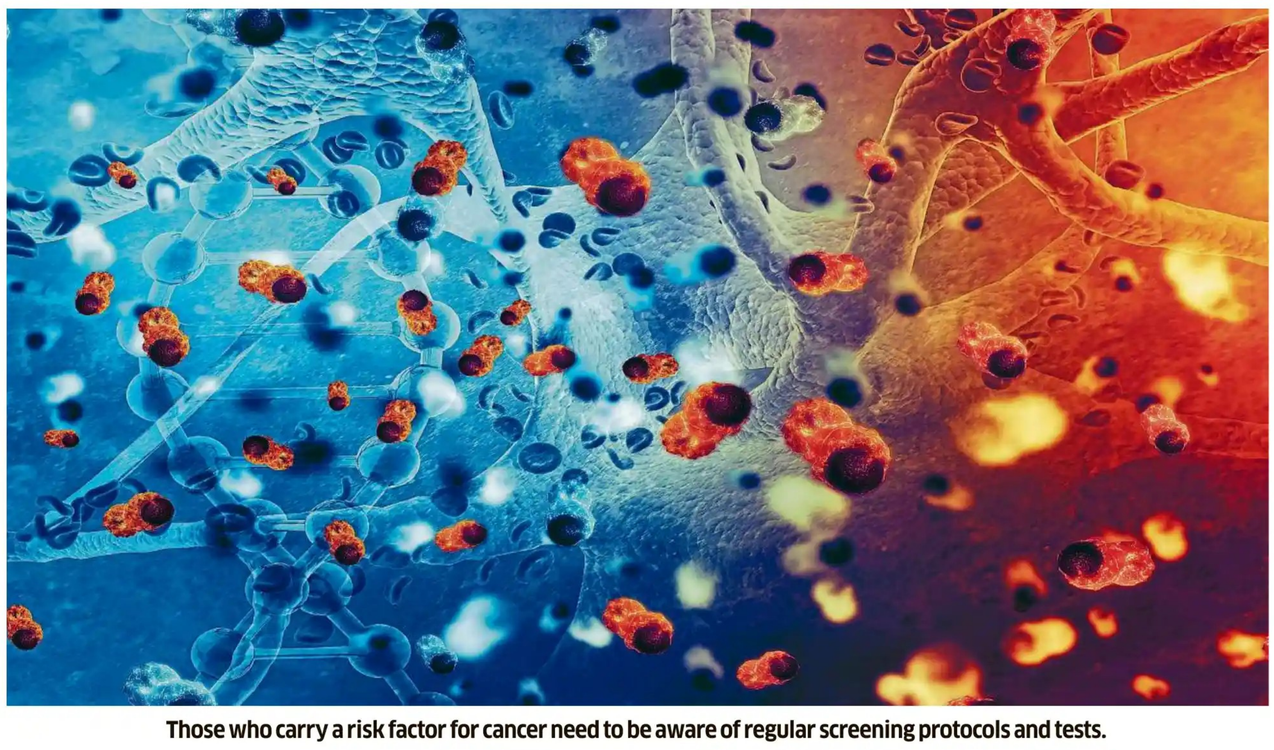
The menu reflects that philosophy: Uttarakhandi kadhi, Dindigul biryani, Rogan josh, alongside elevated street staples like bhel puri and kathi rolls. Even the drinks, jamun masala or filter kaapi–infused fizz, carry a hint of home, and an appeal to our collective nostalgia for foods that have coloured our growing-up years.

Looks like small-town India is intent on setting its own table instead of playing catch-up with the big, bad metros.

Wellness

Not all cancer cases are hereditary in nature, and lifestyle plays a key role. Factors such as obesity, smoking, low physical activity and poor sleep need attention, writes Dr Nitin Yashas

It's not **always** the **genes**



Those who carry a risk factor for cancer need to be aware of regular screening protocols and tests.

As per GLOBOCAN (Global Cancer Observatory) estimates, every year there are close to 1.5 lakh new cancer cases in the country. One of the most common myths is that a majority of cancer cases are hereditary. The reality is that less than 15-20 per cent of cancer cases are hereditary/familial in nature and can be associated with genetic mutations, i.e errors in the genetic code/DNA that can be passed on from one generation to another.

CANCER AWARENESS

The etiology of cancer is multifactorial. Most risk factors of cancer are associated with the lifestyle choices one makes. One of the leading risk factors of cancer continues to be tobacco consumption, either in the form of smoking or other means. Smoking is not only a risk factor for lung cancer but cancers such as esophageal cancer, stomach cancer, cancer of the larynx and oral cavity, and intestinal cancers too. Alcohol is another risk factor for development of cancer, particularly of the upper aero-digestive tract due to the interactions of cancer-causing agents called carcinogens and their impact on metabolism and other pathways.

Obesity a risk factor

Obesity and being over weight is a risk factor for development of almost 13 different types of cancer. Obesity leads to changes in metabolism, particularly with insulin-related pathways leading to the creation of a chronic inflammatory state leading to an increased risk of cancer.

On the other hand, physical activity reduces the risk of cancer. While the optimal level of physical activity is to be defined clearly for reduction of cancer risk, 150-300 minutes of moderate physical activity per week is associated with significant health benefits. Recent guidelines and studies have also shown that a structured exercise programme after surgery for colon cancer reduces the risk of recurrence of cancer.

Food choices need a close look

The food one consumes and the choices that an individual makes all play a vital role in overall health and reduction of cancer risk. Processed meat has been classified as Group 1 carcinogen by the The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Increased intake of dietary fat has been associated with a decreased risk of colon cancer.

One needs to understand that the food consumed plays a key role in modulating the gut health and the microorganisms present in the human gut (called the microbiome). The microbiome modulates the inflammation and other pathways in the human body. Avoidance of ultra-processed and refined food, sugary drinks, excessive dietary fat, and increasing consumption of a balanced diet with whole grains , fruits and vegetables, legumes would be beneficial for the gut health.

Amidst all this, one should not overlook the importance of good sleep and managing stress. Prolonged night time shift work and disruption of circadian rhythm in the human body can affect repair of DNA and lead to tumour growth. Avoidance of exposure to light from smart gadgets or bright light at least two hours before bed, limiting the number of consecutive night shifts and prioritising healthy sleep patterns along with a healthy diet and exercise would mitigate the risk for cancer.

Certain vaccines such as the HPV vaccine offer protection from infections from the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which is associated commonly with the development of cervical cancer. Vaccination against Hepatitis B virus helps reduce the chance of development of liver infection and inflammation which can lead to liver cancers.

Genetic testing

There are specific indications and guidelines as to who needs to get genetic testing for cancer done. Those who carry a risk factor for cancer because they have a hereditary cancer-associated gene need to be aware of screening protocols and tests which can be carried out at regular intervals to detect cancer early. They should also consult their oncologist to understand the role of risk reduction surgeries which can prevent the cancer from occurring. A noted example being a famous Hollywood actress who underwent removal of both breasts and ovaries to reduce the risk of breast and ovarian cancer caused in those who carry a BRCA gene mutation.

Prevention and risk reduction begins with everyday choices. Lifestyle change is one of the most powerful cancer risk reduction tools that we have. Changing how one lives can change cancer outcomes.

(The writer is a consultant medical oncologist & haemato-oncologist at a Bengaluru hospital.)

QUICK TAKES

- India sees nearly **1.5 lakh** new cancer cases annually, according to GLOBOCAN
- Less than **15-20 per cent** of cancer cases are hereditary/familial in nature
- Obesity is a risk factor for development of almost **13** different types of cancer

BIOHACK OF THE WEEK

Keep an **eye** on this!

Are you struggling with a case of watery eyes? The problem could be dry eye syndrome. It could also be an exposure to allergens and dust. The other reason for eye discomfort includes inflammation and infection, sometimes conjunctivitis.

For watery eyes, the solution is typically the use of eye drops that are available over the counter. You may also be asked to use anti-inflammatory medication.

Some ways to seek relief include the use of warm compresses, clean any irritants that may have deposited around/in the corner of the eyes, and use sunglasses that cut exposure to smoke, wind or extremely bright lights.

For problems such as eye fatigue or dry eyes, keep these tips in mind:

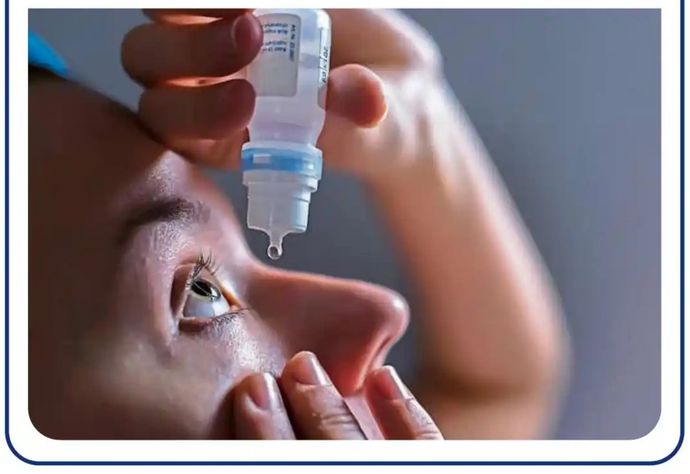
- Follow the classic 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, shift your gaze to something 20 feet away for 20 seconds to give your eyes a break.
- Prolonged screen time is a huge reason for eye-related discomfort. Take frequent breaks from your screens.
- Not blinking often can also lead to dryness in the eye – blinking brings tears back into the eyes and keeps the surface lubricated. Tears contain oil, water and mucus that provide nourishment to the surface of the eye.
- Ensure that the air in your home/office doesn't get too dry. Air conditioners are a common cause of dry eyes.
- Get your spectacles/reading glasses/contact lenses checked and make sure they comply with the prescription.

Puffy eyes

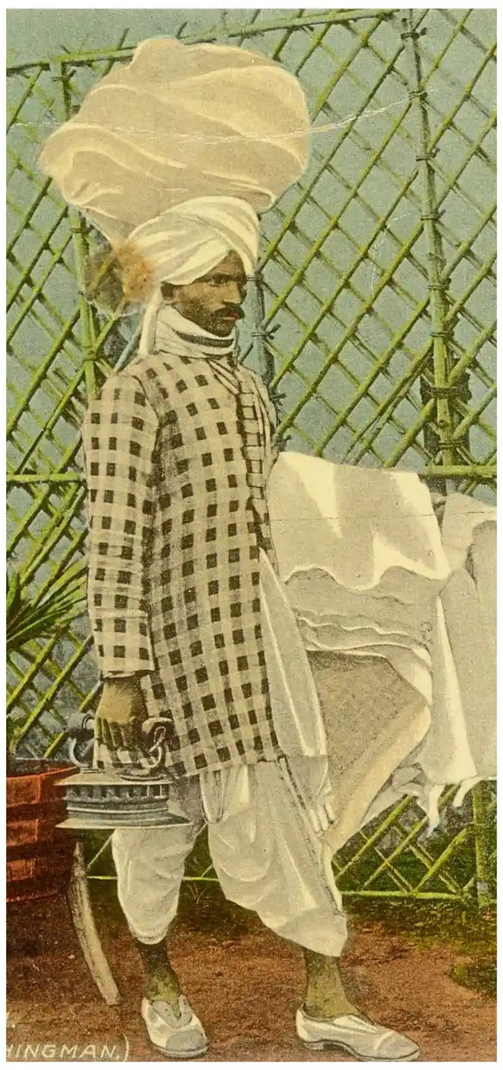
The other eye-related issue is puffy eyes – caused by inadequate sleep, sometimes retention of fluid (because of salty food or alcohol), ageing or even allergies. The swelling is often temporary and there could also be mild discomfort or fatigue related to it. You could take some simple steps such as the following to find relief:

- Use a cold compress to reduce the swelling.
- Use an eye pack – slices of cucumber are often used to cut inflammation under the eyes. You can also use refrigerated tea bags on the eyes, as the caffeine in it boosts circulation.
- Cut down on salt consumption.
- Get enough sleep. Experts say it is important to get at least seven to eight hours of sleep every night.

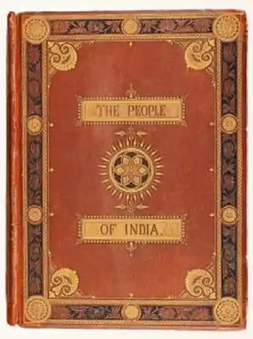
Curated by Savitha Karthik (Biohack of the Week *offers actionable tips to optimise your wellbeing.)*



ON THE PALETTE



Some of the photographs displayed at the exhibition. PICS COURTESY: DAG



Spanning 65 years and 200 rare works, an ongoing exhibition in Delhi explores how photography manufactured Indian racial types and why such categories persist, says Neeta Lal

A question of gaze

At Bikaner House in Delhi this winter, photography does not merely hang on walls — it stares back, questions its own gaze, and compels viewers to confront the authority and afterlife of the image. Typecasting: Photographing the Peoples of India 1855–1920 — an exhibition curated by historian Sudeshna Guha and presented by Delhi Art Gallery (DAG), is among the most rigorous exhibitions on early Indian photography to be staged in the country.

Spanning nearly 65 years and bringing together close to 200 rare photographs and related material, the exhibition (Jan 30 – Feb 15) confronts a question that feels sharply contemporary: how did photography help manufacture the idea of social and racial "types" in India, and why do these visual categories persist in subtle, insidious ways?

"Typecasting brings critical scrutiny to the histories and errors of type-making, and makes available historical photographs for reflection on the systems of classification and typologies created in the colonial period — typologies that photography made appear real and natural," explains Guha.

Walking through the exhibition, one is immediately struck by the expansive geographic and social sweep it attempts to map. From Lepcha and Bhutia communities of the northeast to the Afridis of Sind in the northwest; from the Todas of the Nilgiris to affluent Parsee and Gujarati merchants; from colonial elites to dancing girls, coolies, barbers and snake charmers — India unfolds here as an archive of faces, costumes and professions.

Compelling and troubling

Yet this is no celebration of diversity. Instead, Typecasting makes explicit that early ethnographic photography was never neutral. It did not simply record difference; it actively produced it. At the core of the exhibition are folios from The People of India, the monumental eight-volume photographic series compiled by John Forbes Watson and John William Kaye between 1868 and 1875.

Conceived in the aftermath of the 1857

uprising, the project was deeply entangled with colonial governance. Produced with contributions from pioneering photographers such as Benjamin Simpson, James Waterhouse, William Willoughby Hooper and John Burke, alongside the commercial firm Shepherd and Robertson, the volumes attempted a comprehensive visual taxonomy of the subcontinent.

Seen today, these images are both compelling and deeply troubling: faces arranged as evidence, bodies framed as data, identities fixed into categories assumed to be stable and knowable.

The exhibition extends beyond this canonical project to include albumen and silver-gelatin prints by eminent photographers such as Samuel Bourne, Charles Shepherd, Darogha Abbas Ali, and others. Together, these works span the period from 1855 to 1920. Displayed through prints, cabinet cards, postcards, albums and books, the material reveals how the camera came to be seen as scientific proof — capable of rendering social hierarchies visible and seemingly immutable.

"The 1850s were a decade of incredible change in India," notes Ashish Anand, CEO and Managing Director of DAG, situating this photographic moment within a larger historical shift. "It marked the first collective call for action against colonial oppression, the transfer of power from the East India Company to the British Crown, and the arrival of photography alongside the beginnings of modern anthropological study. The camera swiftly became the primary instrument of investigation, the means by which representatives of the subcontinent's innumerable communities were captured for analysis and classification."

Some pride, some prejudice

The social consequences of this visual regime are never far from view. As Anand observes, looking back today makes it "obvious that this process was problematic on many levels." Race, caste, occupation and region were flattened into visual shorthand that often reinforced colonial prejudice and administrative convenience rather than lived reality.

Particularly compelling are sections devoted to domestic life and popular imagery. Photographs of colonial households reveal not only Indian subjects but also the biases of those who staged and framed them. Meanwhile, the images of nautch girls — later examined in depth in Omar Khan's accompanying essay — expose how postcards circulated voyeuristic fantasies of Indian femininity across the globe, transforming women into objects of consumption far removed from their social worlds.

Ultimately, Typecasting refuses nostalgia. In an age when images circulate in nanoseconds, and categories once again threaten to harden into stereotypes, this exhibition feels both deeply historical and uncannily present — demanding time, attention and ethical engagement.

ESOTERICA *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

Archaeologists have found traces of cacao, the rawest source of chocolate, in pottery used in the Amazon Basin 5,300 years ago. However, the region slightly up north is known for the most widespread use of chocolate in the pre-modern era. Parts of what is now Mexico and Central America were home to various civilisations (such as the Maya and Aztecs) between 1500 BCE and 1500 CE, and these cultures believed chocolate provided energy and had medicinal qualities.

In fact, the Mayans considered cacao a gift from the gods and used it for sacred and funeral offerings. The elites among them ground roasted cacao beans into a paste and mixed it with water, corn, and aromatic herbs to brew a frothy chocolate drink. Others made a humble porridge-like dish from cacao. Under the Aztec rulers, cacao beans could even be used to pay taxes.

Tomorrow is Chocolate Day, and Valentine's Day isn't far behind, with roses, clichés, and far too many heart-shaped boxes. But how did a bitter bean become love's official mascot? Let's unwrap the story of

HOW CHOCOLATE CAME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH LOVE & ROMANCE

Is chocolate really an aphrodisiac?

A study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health says cocoa does carry several substances with positive health effects. But in chocolate processing, cocoa loses some of these constituents and so, "the role of chocolate on human health cannot be completely compared to that of cocoa."

Cacao: Raw, fermented, dried seeds from Theobroma cacao tree

Cacao butter: Fat pressed from ground cacao nibs; white, rich texture

Cocoa: Powder from roasted bean solids after cacao butter removal

Chocolate liquor: Paste of cocoa solids and butter from ground nibs

After the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire in 1521, many Spanish soldiers who had settled down in Central America adopted the food customs of the conquered land and took to drinking cacao. One of these settlers wrote a memoir in which he spoke about the 16th Century Aztec ruler Moctezuma II drinking 50 golden goblets of the cacao drink a day to increase his sexual prowess. The word spread and soon, Spaniards started bringing cacao home as an exotic gift. It became an instant hit, especially after their countrymen got used to preparing the beverage with cane sugar instead of expensive honey and spices.

Gradually, chocolate travelled to the rest of Europe. Wherever it went, its reputation as a sexual stimulant preceded its actual arrival. By early 19th Century, the beverage was being produced commercially and even the not-so-rich could afford it. In 1847, chocolate maker J S Fry & Sons launched a bar, that is a chocolate to eat rather than drink. Valentine's Day was already a part of popular culture and it was only a matter of time before someone connected the festival with chocolate. In the 1860s, Cadbury and other makers launched fancy heart-shaped boxes for the romantic holiday.

TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Sources: utexas.edu, Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets

Indian pavilion to return to Venice

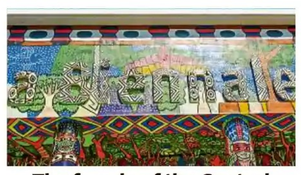
DAB HAND

After a seven-year hiatus, the Indian Pavilion is set to return to the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia (Venice Biennale), starting May 9.

The Pavilion will feature the group exhibition, 'Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home', which seeks to capture the nation's cultural richness at a pivotal moment on the global stage.

Returning to Venice for the first time since 2019, the pavilion is being presented by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) and Serendipity Arts Foundation — two of India's leading multi-disciplinary cultural institutions.

The group exhibition, curated by renowned author-curator Amin Jaffer, explores how home, for those shaped by distance or



The facade of the Central Pavilion at an earlier biennale in Venice.

change, becomes a portable condition informed by memory, ritual, material and personal mythology. It also reflects India's rapid urban transformation and increasing mobility, both within the country and across its global diaspora.

The exhibition brings together five Indian artists — Alwar Balasubramaniam (Bala), Sumakshi Singh, Ranjani Shettar, Asim Waqif and Skarma Sonam Tashi — who draw on material culture traditions spanning millennia to evoke an emotional connection to the idea of home.

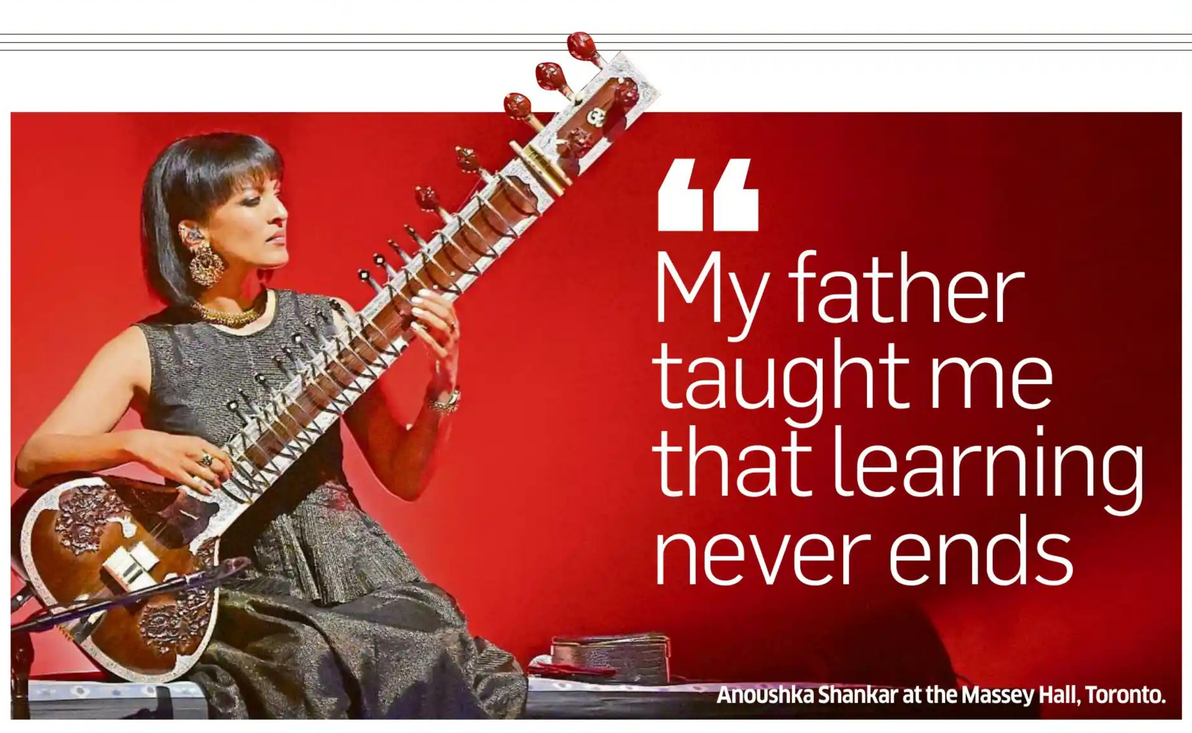
While the artists come from diverse geographic backgrounds and practices, they are united by their shared use of organic materials rooted in India's traditional craft and material heritage in both the creation and presentation of their works. "Through this work, our artists come together to form a collective Indian voice that resonates with Koyo Kouoh's vision for this Biennale," explained Jaffer, who has devised the project in response to La Biennale di Venezia's theme, 'In Minor Keys', conceived by the late curator Koyo Kouoh.

Another key highlight of the India Pavilion will be a curated programme of music, performance, poetry and conversation over the course of the Biennale.

PTI

MELODY MAKERS

In a candid chat with Shilpi Madan, sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar, who is celebrating 30 years of live performance, discusses the challenges she has overcome



Anoushka Shankar at the Massey Hall, Toronto.

India is her first inheritance. Sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar is marking another homecoming with her six-city tour across the country. With two 2026 Grammy nominations — for her Chapter III: We Return to Light album, and 'Daybreak' — the world-renowned artiste now has a total of 13 Grammy nominations. The daughter of Indian classical legend Pt Ravi Shankar, Anoushka has also made her mark as a film composer, a passionate activist, and an actor. Her milestone India Tour celebrates 30 years of live performance. *Excerpts from an interview*

What's your state of mind right now?
Pretty alert, focused and calm. Coming to India is always a punctuation point in my global sojourns. It feels like a homecoming, each time.

How has the journey been in the world of music so far?
Honestly, it is impossible to paraphrase 30 years of anything! I feel incredibly blessed to be able to do this for three decades, without feeling like an old woman (laughs). I started very young, and that brought along a certain level of craziness, incredible learning and opportunities. I have been working hard all my life, and have always wanted to keep growing and exploring. Every project feels like a new opportunity to find a new sound, rediscover my sitar.

From Anoushka in 1998 – your first album – to the culmination of the Chapters trilogy in 2025: how did it feel wrapping up Chapter III: We Return to Light?
I've never released an album in a series like this earlier. The process has been time-consuming, and I am relishing the feeling of this payoff at the end. I remember sitting on the beach with my diary, planning the series with different collaborators inside my head, forming the band... It is gratifying to see it come to fruition.

What does the sitar mean to you?
The sitar means everything to me. I love it deeply. It is my best friend, it is what I speak through, and what takes me to so many places across the world, letting me learn about my own culture, other cultures. The sitar has given me discipline and craft.

How do you think the music industry has evolved over the years?
I started as a teenager in the world of music in the 90s, and the nature of misogyny and sexism has since shifted — it was worse in the 90s. Now there are relevant conversations around mental health and what it takes out of artistes to do what we do. There is a meaningful dialogue that goes beyond cliches like 'tortured artistes' and 'the show must go on'.

As a sitarist, what is the biggest influence your father wielded on the shaping of your journey?
There is an ephemeral way of answering this. By simply being with my father, I got a deep insight into a long-term, intimate view of the craft and process of playing the sitar. He was so humble, and spiritually connected to music. For him, it was an infinite journey in the music world, and it never reached a point where he felt he had learnt it all. As a child, sitting with him as a student sits with a master, I have learnt that the journey never ends.

He taught me discipline and a methodical way of teaching. My training has brought in an incredible music memory. This is pivotal when I dip into my repertoire and switch between genres fluidly on stage.

What has been your biggest challenge?
There have been many challenges. Leading a high-pressure, public life. Working consistently through depletion, heartache, grief, breakdown... There have been difficult moments through single parenting, coming through addiction, being the single child of my mother, meeting the expectations people have of me by virtue of being Pandit Ravi Shankar's daughter, leading an unusual life across continents...It has been an ongoing journey.

What is the most Indian aspect about you?
My connection to our heritage and Indian classical music. There has been a deep immersion in the dance world and mythology because of my parental influence. I can be very dramatic and catastrophising like an Indian mother — by exclaiming to my kids that there can be an accident if they aren't careful crossing the road, as opposed to simply cautioning them to look left and right before crossing!

Your deepest learning in life?
The chaos of life cannot be put in boxes. Go with the flow, adapt as you move.

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ANJANAPURA SALE 20x60, 20x60 Adjoining 2Sites N/F 8th-Block Parallel 80feet Vajramuni Road Cheque Payment 10.5K_Per_Sft Call:9945922769

ANJANAPURA 1ST Block 30x40 North facing, good location, 1,56,00,000/-, full cheque payment [Agents Excuse] -9845144365.

Banashankari

BDA SITE SALE BANASHANKARI, 6TH STAGE, 4TH BLACK, 40X60 GOOD LOCATION, NEAR ATHMSHRAMA: 9845146725/ 9741466369

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B Block 40x60 west facing 2.10Cr also 40x60 South Facing 6th Block 2.20Cr behind 100Ft Road, site owners 9945373839, 9620041313

BDA SITE, PRIME LOCATION Banashankri 6th, 2nd Block 30x40 East Facing, Brokers Excuse. 98458-59217/ 98456-09477.

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage, 7th Block, North, 40x60, 12000/- sqft. Owner:- 9886052148.

Girinagar

40X60 GIRINAGAR and 40x60 North Face in Hanumatha Nagar. Good Location. Please CONTACT: 6362196652

Hesaraghatta

HESARAGHATTA ROAD, MEI Layout, Society 40x60, North Facing, A Katha, Near (Sapthagiri College) Contact: 9980501366

Jakkur

JUDICIAL LAYOUT Site For_Sale 7850sft East Facing Residential Plan Sanctioned on 14th_Main 22k per_sft Call:9845922769

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SITE 30X40 EF BDA, Rs. 10000/- Negotiable, Nada Prbhu Kempegowda Layout, 1st Block H-Sector: 9916826976

BDA SITE for Sale Nadaprabhu kempegowda layout 40x60, 1st block H Sector, Near 330 feet PRR Road South, Broker excuse Genuine buyers only: 7349549087

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

"AVAILABLE ANNAPOORNESWA-RINAGAR RHSCS Layout 30X50 Site for_Sale 40_FEET_ROAD NEAR BDA COMPLEX 9448733456 7259675150"

"AVAILABLE `D`GROUP 30x40 East MPM 40x60 near_AIT_COLLEGE, Vishveshwaraiah 30x40 East 50x80 Commercial. 9448733456/ 7259675150"

DIRECT OWNER 30x40 BDA Site Sale, KEMPEGWODA LAYOUT BLOCK-3 'J' SECTOR,Behind 80ft Road KOMMAGATTA. 9742681666

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BDA SITES AVAILABLE 50x80, 40x60, 30x40, 30x20 in Vishweshwaraiah Layout and Kempegowda Layout. 9900999919.

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"NAGARABHAVI BDA-COMPLEX 40x60 East North Corner, 30x47 West 40 feet Road, Immediate Registration. 9448432633"

NAGARBHAVI RHS Layout, 40x60 East Facing, Pure Commercial, Near BDA Complex, Genuine Buyers Only: 9980409820

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RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR 30X40 East Facing Site For Sale Excellent Location BDA APPROVED Call: 9341260828

Vishweshwariah Layout

"VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6th Block 40x60 South_facing Site for_sale Good_Location Genuine Buyers Contact: 9845500019/ 7019314962"

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VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BDA 7th Block, 30x40 SF, Near RTO Office, Site No. 1476, Direct Owner Meeting: 9902956166

SMVL 7TH Block, 40×60 Site, DC Conversion, E Katha, NF, Byregowda Layout Near Ullal RTO: 9980433004

SMV LAYOUT 9th Block BDA PROPERTY 30x40 WEST FACING near NAGARBHAVI Ring Road. Contact: 9611988112

BDA SITE SALE 40×60 N/F 3RD BLOCK SMV LAYOUT 14500/- SRI RAMA PROPERTIES 9108133156/ 9632763003

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Banashankari

BDA-SITES WANTED @ BSK 6th Stage all Blk Vishweshwaraiah Lyt Kempegowda Lyt 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Call:9845555666

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, C. MADHU D/o. CHANNAMADEGOWDA R/a DG.Road, Thotada Mane, Ajjipura, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka- 571439 Declare that in my SSLC (10th Standard) Marks Card issued by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, my Father's Name incorrectly mentioned as **CHENNAMADE GOWDA** instead of **CHANNAMADEGOWDA** vide affidavit dated 03.02.2026 sworn before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Poornima P.S. has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by REVA University, Bengaluru, for her thesis titled "Vachana Movement and Transcendentalist Sensibilities: A Re-reading of Saint Akkamahadevi's Vachanas" under the guidance of Prof. Beena. G.

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ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು

5, 6, 7ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 9ನೇ ತರಗತಿಗಳು:	08-03-2026 ಭಾನುವಾರ	ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆನ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
8ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯವರಿಗೆ	08-03-2026 ಭಾನುವಾರ	ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆನ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ

(ಅವಕಾಶವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಚಾಯಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಹಂತದ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.)
ಗೌರವ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

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